

MOVIES: AP chooses its Top 25 sports films [Page 50](#)

GAMES: RE3 updates are no-brainers [Page 20](#)

MUSIC: Post Malone only getting more popular [Page 30](#)

EUROPE & PACIFIC

WEEKEND EDITION

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[Pages 18-19](#)

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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Nuclear forces, combat troops prioritized in military testing

By MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

The U.S. military on Wednesday announced plans to roll out expanded testing for COVID-19 beginning with nuclear forces and troops engaged in combat, a process that would be widened to include other service members as more diagnostic materials become available.

Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that Defense Secretary Mark Esper had recently approved a plan to allocate the force into four tiers that would govern prioritization of coronavirus testing.

Officials said the first tier would include troops involved in "critical national capabilities," such as nuclear forces and at least some Special Operations forces; the second would include troops assigned to combat zones and those involved in the domestic virus response; the third would be troops located overseas on priority missions and those being brought back to the U.S. following deployments; all remaining troops would make up the last tier.

Hyten said testing would be completed this month for "tier one" troops, "focusing our supplies and efforts on these critical forces like our strategic deterrent, making sure that they're always full-up, always ready to go."

"To get to the entire force, the 1.4 million active duty and the entire [National] Guard and Reserve, is going to take us into the summer, but I think we'll get to the deploying, redeploying forces, the forces engaged, all of the tier one forces next month," Hyten said.

SEE TESTING ON PAGE 5



Job crisis continues

26 million in US have sought unemployment benefits since virus hit

A woman carries a box of food as hundreds of others affected by the COVID-19 virus outbreak wait in line at a Salvation Army center in Chelsea, Mass., on Wednesday.

A record 16 million are receiving unemployment benefits in the U.S.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 4.4 million laid-off workers applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week as job cuts escalated across an economy that remains all but shut down, the government said Thursday.

Roughly 26 million people have now filed for jobless aid in the five weeks since the coronavirus outbreak began forcing millions of employers to close their doors. About one in six American workers have lost their jobs in the past five weeks, by far the worst string

of layoffs on record. Economists have forecast that the unemployment rate for April could go as high as 20%.

The magnitude of job cuts has plunged the economy into the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Some economists say the nation's output could shrink by twice the amount that it did during the Great Recession, which ended in 2009.

The economic consequences of the virus-related shutdowns have sparked angry protests in several state capitals from crowds insisting that businesses be allowed to reopen.

SEE UNEMPLOYMENT ON PAGE 9

RELATED STORIES

US, NATO provide medical supplies to Afghanistan

Page 5

Air Force making plans for long-term 'new abnormal'

Page 6

Sailors on 26 ships now have coronavirus

Page 8

Get the latest news on the virus outbreak

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	Azores	Change in price		\$2,992	..
Germany	\$2.075	\$2.538	\$2.782	\$2.743			No change		
Change in price	-4.1 cents	-4.1 cents	-4.3 cents	-2.7 cents					
Netherlands	..	\$3.049	\$3.251	\$3.416	Belgium	..	\$2,834	\$2,086	\$2,252
Change in price	..	-7.4 cents	-7.8 cents	-7.8 cents	Change in price	..	No change	No change	No change
U.K.	..	\$2.448	\$2.692	\$2.653	Turkey	..	..	\$2,583	\$2,544*
Change in price	..	-4.1 cents	-4.3 cents	-2.7 cents	Change in price	..		+4.3 cents	-2.7 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	South Korea	\$1,899	..	\$2,599	\$2,559
Japan	..	\$2,569	..	\$2,529	Change in price	-4.0 cents	..	-5.0 cents	-3.0 cents
Change in price	..	-5.0 cents	..	-3.0 cents	Guam	\$1,879**	\$2,339	\$2,579	..
Okinawa	\$1,869	..	..	\$2,529	Change in price	-4.0 cents	-4.0 cents	-5.0 cents	..
Change in price	-4.0 cents	..	..	-3.0 cents					

* Diesel E10 ** Midgrade
For the week of April 24-30

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (cents) (April 24)	\$1.05
Dollar (\$1) (April 24)	€0.769
British pound (April 24)	\$1.21
Japanese yen (April 24)	105.00
South Korean won (April 24)	1,198.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3785
British pound	\$1.2342
Chinese yuan (Renminbi)	0.1728
China (Yuan)	0.1728
Denmark (Krone)	6.9094
Egypt (Pound)	15.7513
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7506
Hungary (Forint)	331.13
Israel (Shekel)	5.5376
Italy (Euro)	0.8883
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3118
Norway (Krone)	10.6576
Poland (Zlote)	0.55
Poland (Zloty)	4.21
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7607
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4236
South Korea (Won)	1,232.14

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	0.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.05
3-month bill	0.11
30-year bond	1.22

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

- American Roundup 40
- Classified 41
- Comics 36, 42-43
- Crossword 36, 42-43
- Faces 37
- Opinion 38-39
- Sports 45-52
- Weekend 15-36

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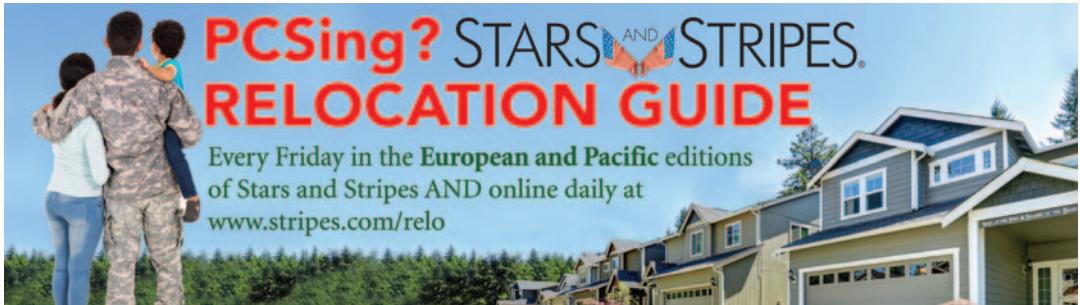
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MILITARY

Hyten: Orders needed to execute Iran tweet

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Pentagon leaders must now develop orders for troops that match President Donald Trump's tweet instructing the Navy to shoot at harassing Iranian ships, Gen. John Hyten, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday.

"The president made a clear statement. I think the Iranians understand that, I think the American people understand that. Now, as the military have to apply that clear direction from the commander in chief into lawful orders that we execute," the Air Force general said during a Pentagon news conference that he conducted with Deputy De-

fense Secretary David Norquist.

Trump tweeted earlier Wednesday that he had "instructed the United States Navy to shoot down and destroy any and all Iranian gunboats if they harass our ships at sea."

On April 15, 11 boats identified as Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy vessels "repeatedly conducted dangerous and harassing approaches" of six U.S. ships in the northern Persian Gulf, according to the U.S. Navy.

Images posted by the 5th Fleet of the incident show what look like speed boats conducting close passes and tight turns around the U.S. ships. The American sailors gave multiple warnings to the Iranian ships through bridge-to-bridge radio, five short horn

blasts and "long-range acoustic noise marker devices," for an hour before the vessels eventually responded to radio messages and moved away, the Navy said.

"What's been going on right now is that you can't let a boat, a fast boat get into a position where they can threaten your ship," Hyten said.

Tensions between Iran and the United States have increased during the past few years, resulting in several violent and deadly incidents. Iran was accused by the United States last summer of placing limpet mines on the sides of ships in the Gulf of Oman forcing the Pentagon to send personnel and equipment to the region to try to deter Iranian activities.

In January, Trump ordered a

drone strike to kill Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian Quds Force, following a deadly rocket attack on an Iraqi base in Kirkuk and attempts to storm the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad by Iranian-backed militia. Iran retaliated days later by firing 11 missiles at Iraqi bases housing U.S. troops, injuring more than 100 service members.

In March, the Iranian-backed militia Kataeb Hezbollah was blamed for a rocket attack on Camp Taji north of Baghdad, killing two American service members and a British Army reservist.

On Wednesday, Hyten said the U.S. military has a right to respond to "hostile intent" and has specific guidance on how to use

lethal force.

"I go back to what the president said sends a great message to Iran. That's perfect. We know how to translate that into our rules of engagement," Hyten said. "We don't talk about rules of engagement in public, but they're based on the inherent right of self-defense."

Norquist said the intent behind Trump's words was a "very clear message" to Iran about their behavior.

"I think it was very useful thing that he put out and I think it's an important thing for other people to understand and take very seriously," he said about Trump's tweet.

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B-1 sortie showcases Air Force's new model

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

A B-1B Lancer bomber flew on Wednesday from the continental United States to Japan, where it teamed up with 15 Japanese fighter jets to demonstrate the Air Force's recent shift to a more unpredictable global strategic bomber presence.

The Lancer flew 30 hours round-trip from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., to Misawa Air Base, meeting up with seven Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-2s and eight F-15s, the Air Force said in a news release Wednesday.

That group was joined by six Misawa-based F-16 Fighting Falcons.

The aircraft crews trained over Droughon Range near Misawa as part of a U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and U.S. Strategic Command joint bomber task force, the release said.

Last week, five B-52H bombers flew from Guam to their home station in Minot Air Force Base, N.D., ending the Air Force's six-month rotations of bombers through the island that had been

taking place since 2004.

The Air Force's new "dynamic force employment model" embraces the U.S. National Defense Strategy's objectives of "strategic predictability and operational unpredictability," the release said.

The new model enables strategic bombers to operate in the Indo-Pacific region from a broader array of locations, both on the continental U.S. and overseas, the release said.

Wednesday's operation showcased America's "unwavering commitment to the security and stability" of the Pacific region, Pacific Air Forces commander Gen. Charles Brown Jr. said in the news release.

"From confronting invisible threats of a global pandemic to addressing military aggression and coercive activities, we remain a lethal, innovative and interoperable force focused on a shared vision of upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said.

This is the second time this year that a U.S.-based bomber trained with the JASDF.

In February, two B-52s integrated with more than 45 Japa-



TIMOTHY MOORE/U.S. Air Force

A B-1B Lancer from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and F-16 Fighting Falcons from Misawa Air Base, Japan, train with Japanese F-2s off the coast of northern Japan on Wednesday.

nese fighter jets near Misawa. Those bombers flew from Andersen Air Force Base on Guam and Minot.

A B-1 bomber last flew in the INDOPACOM area of responsibility in January 2018, at the end of a six-month rotation at Andersen. The bomber that flew to

Japan on Wednesday is assigned to the 28th Bomb Wing.

"This mission is a demonstration to our friends throughout the region: We will continue to remain fully predictable in our commitment to ensuring peace, while also demonstrating that we have the ability to operate from

numerous locations across the globe, even during the global pandemic," Gen. Tim Ray, commander of the Air Force Global Strike Command and Air Forces Strategic, said in the news release.

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High court decision on unanimous jury verdicts leaves military out

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

A Supreme Court opinion this week banning non-unanimous verdicts in state criminal cases leaves the military as the sole American jurisdiction that allows them.

The court's 6-3 decision on Ramos v. Louisiana said that a unanimous jury decision, long required in federal courts under Sixth Amendment guarantees on the rights to a trial by jury, also applied to state courts. Oregon was the last state allowing non-unanimous juries.

But there was no mention in the decision of military courts, which require only a three-quarters majority for conviction.

"The issue is that in military courts there are no Sixth Amendment rights," said Matt Osborn, a former Air Force lawyer now in private practice in the Washington, D.C. area.

The courts have repeatedly found that the Constitution gives Congress power to "make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces," including a military justice system dedicated to good order and discipline. As such, some protections for civilian defendants don't apply to service members, the courts have held.

"If there's no right to a jury, there's no right to a unanimous jury," said Don Christensen, a former Air Force prosecutor.

Military defendants are not judged by

juries of their peers but by courts-martial "panels" composed of higher-ranking troops selected by commanders.

Civilian felony trials require 12 jurors. Until last year, the size of courts-martial panels varied and a two-thirds majority was required to convict. Now, eight members compose a general court-martial panel, with six selected to convict.

Panel members discuss the case but vote only once, after the highest-ranking officer decides to do so.

"As with many procedures in the military, the goal is speed and efficiency," said Michael Lyons, a former Air Force lawyer now practicing in the Washington, D.C. area. "Not requiring all members to agree as to guilt or innocence eliminates

the deadlocked juries and mistrials that occur in civilian courts when the jury is not unanimous."

Military lawyers disagreed whether the Supreme Court decision would lead to subsequent litigation that could force the military to require unanimous verdicts, or whether it was a matter only Congress could decide.

Some said the rules should change. "There's no longer a reason to deny service members the same protections as the civilians they defend," Christensen said. "We don't need King George's justice system."

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MILITARY

Fake virus news aimed at US and NATO in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Disinformation aimed at undermining the U.S. and NATO forces has surged in Europe as adversaries seize on the coronavirus pandemic in their attempts to create instability, Lithuania's Defense Ministry said in a new report.

There have been 807 cases of false or misleading information about the virus, much of it focused on Lithuania, since February, according to an analysis by the Lithuanian military's strategic communication department.

"Alas, the coronavirus crisis has not only not reduced security threats in Europe but created conditions for the threats to grow," Defense Minister Raimundas Karoblis said in a statement Wednesday.

The most recent incident occurred Tuesday when Karoblis received a fake email purporting from NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stating that allies were pulling out of Lithuania, where NATO forces have been deployed for the last several years as a deterrent to potential Russian aggression.

Similar emails were sent to Lithuanian media and NATO headquarters in Brussels, the Lithuanian Defense Ministry said.

"It is one in a series of attempts to turn the pandemic crisis into a security crisis," Karoblis said in the statement. "Fake news like this piece are aimed at sowing distrust in our Alliance partners and NATO unity."

About two-thirds of the disinformation comes out in Russian,

the ministry said. Lithuania, like other Baltic states, has a large Russian-speaking population.

One of the phony messages involved a claim that a U.S. soldier deployed to Lithuania was infected with the coronavirus. Other disinformation narratives have centered on supposed failures among European countries to handle the coronavirus outbreak, as well as bad behavior of allied troops in the Baltics.

The narrative also claims that NATO finances nuclear weaponry instead of fighting COVID-19, which puts Europeans, including Lithuanian citizens at risk. NATO is also blamed for "anti-Russian rhetoric," the Lithuanian Defense Ministry said.

While Russia wasn't singled out as the culprit for the various disinformation attacks, allies have been increasingly concerned about Moscow's attempts to create confusion regarding the role of NATO and U.S. forces in Europe. Last week, NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe, Gen. Tod Wolters, said during a teleconference with reporters that it's imperative for allies to call out disinformation.

"Number one, recognize when you have malign influencers and they're telling falsehoods and point those out and correct that to 100%," Wolters said. "And number two, taking the time to talk about your operations, your activities, your investments, what you're doing from a health perspective to positively influence the good outcome of all your forces."

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'The coronavirus crisis has not only not reduced security threats in Europe but created conditions for the threats to grow.'

Raimundas Karoblis
Lithuanian defense minister



TORY CUSIMANO/U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Jordan Egerton, of the 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, sets a reusable wash cover in place on an F-16 Viper at Aviano Air Base, Italy, on Feb. 21. The covers save more than 1,400 man hours and \$20,000 annually.

Aviano offers dozens of entries in bid to win \$150K innovation contest

By NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — It still takes a lot of time and tape to keep an F-16 from having its electronics scrambled while running it through a wash, but less than it used to after a simple innovation that 31st Fighter Wing airmen came up within the hangar bay.

The 3D-printed reusable wash covers they developed to protect sensitive parts are among 88 Aviano entries in the Lt. Gen. William H. Turner Innovation Madness contest, which will net the winner a \$150,000 top prize through U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, the contest sponsor.

Aviano, a base in rural northeast Italy situated along the Dolomite Mountains, is trying to win for the first time since the annual competition began in 2015. The 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath in England won last year and in 2016, while the nearby 100th Refueling Wing at Mildenhall won in 2018. Other past winners include Ramstein's 86th Airlift Wing and Spangdahlem's 52nd Fighter Wing in Germany.

This year, Aviano is counting

on a slew of innovations or upgrades that saved the base about \$2.8 million, or about 75% more than a similar improvement process saved last year, said Brad Hebing, the 31st Fighter Wing's process manager.

The changes also saved a lot of time, particularly for the airmen washing the fighter jets. Previously, every sensitive component had to be individually taped.

"This process placed a heavy demand on crew chief manpower along with generating a significant waste of barrier material," said Master Sgt. Katherine S. Garneau of the 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The reusable covers reduced taping time from eight hours to three hours, Garneau said.

In other cases, research and smart shopping helped. The 31st Security Forces Squadron needed new vehicle barriers and rejected several options that would have meant more time spent by airmen standing at the gates.

The new barriers they've since installed "were easy to set up, take down and eliminated having to station personnel at each entry control point," said Master Sgt.

Brett Rosebrook, the installation security noncommissioned officer in charge.

Aviano also replaced its obsolete parachute simulator with a more realistic model, which aids airmen learning how to survive and evade an enemy after ejecting from an aircraft. The simulator saves about 300 hours per year due to more efficient training, said Tech. Sgt. Michael Rutland, of the 31st Operations Support Squadron.

Medical care also got a little easier at Aviano after the wing acquired a mobile MRI system. The acquisition means that the base clinic no longer waits up to 30 days to get off-base MRI results, said Lt. Col. Valerie Hostettler, a doctor at the clinic.

The Innovation Madness winner will be announced later this year after participants compete in three rounds. The overall winner takes \$150,000, while second place earns \$50,000, third place gets \$25,000 and fourth place wins \$10,000. Other cash prizes will be awarded throughout the competition.

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More sailors eligible for reenlistment bonus, performance pay

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—About 10,000 more sailors are now eligible for a reenlistment bonus as part of the Navy's effort to retain needed personnel.

The selective reenlistment

bonus update allows all sailors to reenlist a full year before the end of their active-service obligation to receive the bonus instead of waiting to be within 270 days of the end of their hitch.

By expanding the eligibility window, more sailors are

now eligible to reenlist at any given time," Cmdr. Dave Hecht, a spokesman for the chief of naval personnel, said in a statement.

Sailors can receive up to a \$100,000 reenlistment bonus, with the amount calculated based on job, time in service, and the

Navy's retention needs.

The Navy is updating its 2020 selective reenlistment bonus program as part of its regular adjustments that are based on which sailors are leaving the service. Some jobs might need more financial incentives right now to keep

those sailors, whereas other jobs are doing better with retention.

The Navy has also included an additional 27 "skillsets" to the bonus eligibility list, meaning sailors with specific time in service and with certain qualifications are now able to apply.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

US, NATO provide medical supplies to Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The US-led coalition in Afghanistan provided medicine and protective equipment to Afghan troops and police, including 45,000 face masks, officials said this week.

Afghan security forces, who are grappling with both the coronavirus pandemic and persistent Taliban violence, were shown opening boxes of medical supplies in photos that NATO's Resolute Support posted on social media.

There are more than 1,092 confirmed coronavirus cases and 36 deaths in the country, a World Health Organization report said Wednesday, but experts believe that the low levels of testing are obscuring a much higher rate of infection.

Though the Taliban had pledged to aid efforts to slow the virus's spread by offering safe passage to health workers and aid organizations, and suspending fighting in areas with confirmed infections, the militants continue to conduct attacks. Up to 30 security forces members were killed in Taliban attacks in just two days this week, military and police officials confirmed Thursday.

U.S. officials have continued to call for calm since signing a Feb. 29 deal meant to usher in an Afghan-led peace process after more than 18 years of war.

Resolute Support commander Gen. Scott Miller, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the Trump administration diplomat leading negotiations, have stressed the need for less violence during recent visits to Qatar and Pakistan, both of which harbor high-level Taliban

officials.

And in a phone call Wednesday, President Donald Trump spoke with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani about the Taliban needing to reduce violence in Afghanistan, the White House said in a statement provided to Reuters.

Meanwhile, coalition and NATO officials have issued several recent statements on efforts to supply Afghan forces for the COVID-19 fight, including the following:

- Nearly 35,000 vitamin and medicine tablets, some 20,000 masks and over 200 sets of gloves and protective eyewear sent to the Afghan army's 205th Corps in the country's restive southern provinces;
- About 7,000 masks and cleaning supplies provided to police in Parwan province, home to the U.S. military's Bagram Airfield, and neighboring Panjshir province;
- Infrared thermometers, 13,000 masks, 13,000 units of hand sanitizer, disinfectants and soap, as well as 1,000 pairs of gloves and protective eyewear for Afghan troops in the western provinces of Herat and Nimroz, which border pandemic-wracked Iran. Police in Nimroz on Monday received an additional 5,000 masks and 500 pairs of protective glasses, NATO said Thursday.

Preventing the virus's spread "is difficult under even normal circumstances," Miller told PBS NewsHour in an interview that aired Monday, "but almost impossible if we have violence."

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
lawrence.jp/stripes.com

Testing: Military intends to keep ramping up capacity

FROM FRONT PAGE

Officials said that the Pentagon would, at the same time, prioritize testing according to movements, such as submarine and aircraft carrier deployments and basic-training arrivals. Since the U.S. virus outbreak accelerated, the military has taken steps to adjust and even pause training recruits.

"So we're moving quickly. It is a supply issue right now, which is causing us not to be able to go down the full spectrum of all of the forces," Hyten said. "That's why we came up with the tiered approach."

While the military has been testing troops for weeks, focused on the sites of known outbreaks, including the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, a national shortage of supplies, restrictive testing policies and several other factors have limited testing.

More than 3,500 uniformed service members have tested positive to date. Two have died — a relatively low number that officials attribute to the overall youth and fitness of the force.

The plan outlined by Hyten and Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist provides the most detailed glimpse to date of how the Pentagon plans to expand preventive testing across the force in an attempt to avoid disruption of its core security mission.

Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has publicly laid out an objective of being able to conduct 60,000 tests per day in the next month or so. When asked about that goal, however, Norquist seemed to suggest that the department would initially have a much lower target of about 50,000 per week.

The Pentagon has issued department-wide guidelines on social distancing, the use of masks, increased cleaning and other precautions. Close to a million employees are teleworking.

Norquist said that the department would take several steps for troops who cannot maintain physical distance, including recruits and personnel in close quarters on ships. They include quarantines for 14 to 21 days.



NATO Resolute Support

Afghan police receive medical supplies provided by U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan to help with efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic in Panjshir and Parwan provinces.

“(Preventing the virus’s spread) is difficult under even normal circumstances, but almost impossible if we have violence.”

Gen. Scott Miller
NATO Resolute Support commander

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Air Force preparing for long-term 'new abnormal'

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's top general said that he believes the coronavirus will impart a long-term "new abnormal" on the U.S. military, as the outbreak is unlikely to subside until a vaccine is widely available.

Gen. David Goldfein told reporters Wednesday that he has ordered an Air Force-wide "reset" for June 1, when he wants the service to find ways to increase operations tempos slowed by the pandemic. The Air Force chief of staff said that he would like to see plans to increase the number of recruits coming into the service by that deadline and procedures to safely ramp up some of the Air Force operations that have been curtailed in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

"All the projections are no vacine for upwards of a year," Goldfein said during the video news briefing. "So that means we've got to refine our ability to survive and operate, and do the mission our nation requires. And we've got to bring back those missions we have slowed down so that we can get back to some kind of sense of new normality in an abnormal world."

As an example, Goldfein said that he expected the Air Force's air mobility mission, which is primarily responsible for shuttling troops and equipment around the world, to see an increase in operations in the coming months.

While some such flights have continued amid the pandemic and the Pentagon's stop-motion order, as they were deemed essential to combat, logistics and other missions, Goldfein feels that he'll need more crews flying. In addition to military personnel and gear, air mobility aircraft have transported virus testing material around the world.



JESSI MONTE/U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Jeffrey Clark, a 48th Security Forces Squadron response force leader, puts on a protective face mask last week at RAF Lakenheath, England.

The stop-movement orders, which restrict most Defense Department personnel from any travel, including most changes of station and deployments, were extended this week through June 30.

So far, no airmen on crews within the service's Air Mobility Command have tested positive for the coronavirus, Goldfein said. He attributed that to drastic measures the service has taken to shield crew from potential exposure as they travel across the world.

"We keep them in a bubble," he said. "They go to their rooms [after landing on a mission.] Whatever needs to get to them is delivered, and we keep them that way so that they can keep flying all the way through coming home."

The service has taken a similar approach with its nuclear forces, which have also not seen a confirmed case of the virus among the airmen who fly nuclear-capable bombers or staff the service's intercontinental ballistic missiles platforms, Goldfein said. In some cases, service members in the nuclear force are spending two weeks or more in the field operating nuclear systems to ensure that they are not exposed to the disease.

"We've changed the battle rhythm to keep them isolated," the general said. "That's a no-fail mission. We always have to get it done and figure out how to operate."

In total, the Air Force has reported 337 cases of the coronavirus among its active-duty and Reserve forces. Military-wide,

3,725 troops have tested positive for the virus, according to the latest Pentagon data released Thursday.

Another aim of Goldfein's reset is to find ways to increase the number of recruits participating in basic training. The Air Force has downsized its incoming classes of recruits from about 700 per week to about 460 as it has implemented social distancing and other guidelines issued by federal health officials in an attempt to curb the virus.

Goldfein said Wednesday that five recruits had tested positive of the about 6,000 who have entered Air Force initial entrance training since the outbreak began in the United States. In addition to shipping smaller recruit classes to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, the

Air Force opened a temporary, second basic training site at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi last month. A single class of 60 recruits is conducting training there, and the service will soon decide whether additional recruits will be sent to Keesler.

In the coming weeks, Goldfein hopes to see his training leaders find ways to increase the size of basic training classes, as long as they can do so while adhering to health officials' safety recommendations. That includes the building of a tent city at Lackland to allow recruits to spread out further during training.

"Those are all the protocols that we're putting in place to see if we can get back up from 50%," the general said. "We're probably not going to be able to get to 100% until the protocols change, but if we can get from 50 to 60, 70, 75%, that will certainly be helpful."

The smaller number of new airmen coming into the service has not yet created major holes in Air Force units, but Goldfein said that he is worried it could if he cannot find a way to boost basic training in the coming months.

He also said, however, that more airmen are choosing to remain in the Air Force amid the pandemic. That is especially true among pilots and aircraft maintainers, who are often recruited from the Air Force by commercial airliners.

With those companies flying significantly less during the pandemic, airmen are choosing to remain in their stable military jobs.

"It's not surprising with the economy being in a challenging state," Goldfein said. "Companies are not hiring as quickly as we were. So we're actually seeing our retention numbers go up, which somewhat mitigates for the lack of throughput at basic training."

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Elite flight teams to thank health care workers with flyovers

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The Pentagon is planning a multicity tour of the U.S. military's top flight demonstration teams to "champion national unity" amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to senior U.S. officials and a memo obtained by The Washington Post.

The Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds, the demonstration squadrons for the Navy and Air Force, will fly over some cities together and others separately, according to the memo. The flyovers will take place in the next several weeks "to thank first responders, essential personnel and military service members as we collectively battle the spread of COVID-19."

President Donald Trump announced the mission, named Operation America Strong, after

it was reported by The Post on Wednesday afternoon. He said that the mission was "the idea of our great military men and women," and will recognize health care workers.

"This is a tribute to them, to our warriors because they're equal warriors to those incredible pilots and all of the fighters that we have for the more traditional fights that we win," Trump said.

The mission was conceived by senior military officers in the Pentagon and is meant to be a nonpartisan show of resolve, said a senior U.S. military official, speaking Wednesday before the president's announcement.

"This is just a sincere thank-you," the senior military official said. "It's one way to acknowledge those who are pitching in."

White House officials were briefed on the plan because of sensitivities about people gather-

ing to watch amid the pandemic, the senior official said.

While Trump said Wednesday evening that "air shows" will be performed, the senior military official said that there would be no air shows, and that squadrons would perform flyovers. They will avoid flying over areas where people can congregate, the senior official said.

The use of the jets to show resolve could anger those frustrated with the administration's struggles to find enough protective equipment for medical personnel. Flying the squadrons cost at least \$60,000 per hour.

The senior military official said that the cost of the flights will come from money already in the Pentagon budget. Other planes could also be involved, the official said, suggesting that bombers flying over their home states as one possibility.

Congressional staffs were briefed about the plan this week, an effort in part to manage any political backlash, another defense official said. Offices of Democratic and Republican senators on the Armed Services Committee had been notified, according to Hill officials.

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., whose state is home to the Blue Angels, acknowledged Wednesday that he is aware of the plan.

"I'm thrilled to see our military honoring the front-line health care workers who have been fighting every day against this silent killer," he said. "They are all heroes deserving of our gratitude and honor."

The memo said that the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds will fly jointly over Washington, Baltimore, New York, Newark, Trenton, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston and Austin. It was not

clear whether that list could change, but defense officials said that it is not comprehensive.

The Blue Angels, with headquarters in Pensacola, will fly their blue-and-gold F/A-18 Hornets separately over at least 13 other cities, including Miami, Tampa, Tallahassee and Jacksonville in Florida, and Norfolk and Virginia Beach in Virginia. Other Blue Angels destinations include Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Nashville and New Orleans, as well as Kingsville and Corpus Christi in Texas.

The Thunderbirds, meanwhile, plan to fly their red, white and blue F-16 Fighting Falcons over San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Oregon and Seattle, the memo said. They have headquarters at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Wiesbaden volunteers make hundreds of masks

BY DAVID EDGE
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Volunteers in Wiesbaden have made more than 500 face masks that they've been giving away since one of them saw commissary workers using scarves and bags as protective coverings against the coronavirus.

"I just thought that we could do better," said Angelin Nicholson, one of the volunteers from the Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center, located on Clay Kaserne, who have been sewing face masks since April 1. "Now, whenever I go to the commissary, I hand out 10 or 20 masks to whoever needs one."

Most of the masks that the volunteers are making go to base workers who come into close contact with others as part of their jobs, such as those who work in Child Youth Services and military lodging. Others are donated to the Red Cross, said Erik Kraemer, the manager of the Arts and Crafts Center.

The center has also filled a paid order for 200 face masks for the 522d Military Intelligence Battalion, and a smaller order for a business on base, although those masks were not made by volunteers.

The masks allow the Wiesbaden military community to meet Defense Department guidance that calls on people on military property to wear "cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public areas or work centers."

Wearing masks like the ones being made from household materials by the Wiesbaden volunteers can help by preventing asymptomatic people from spreading the coronavirus when they cough or sneeze, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

The masks Nicholson and other volunteers are sewing and giving away to base workers are made from cotton, with a slot where filters — made from a fabric similar to dryer sheets — can be inserted. The filters can be removed and replaced, allowing the masks to be washed and reused.

With no letup in demand for masks, the volunteers are facing a supply crunch for the raw materials needed to make them, Kraemer said.

"What we need is tightly woven, 100% cotton fabric and nonwoven interweaving," the fabric from which the filters are made, he said. "Some of the volunteers are using their own supplies, but we are very quickly running out of supplies to make the masks."



DAVID EDGE/Stars and Stripes

Angelin Nicholson, a volunteer at the Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center at Clay Kaserne in Germany, sews a face mask in her home Tuesday.

To volunteer Nicole Sewell, having to delve into her own material to make masks is not an issue.

"I knew that I had the means and the know-how to help, so it became very important to me to

make masks for the local community," she said.

All of Germany's states in recent days have passed legislation that makes wearing masks while shopping or taking public trans-

portation mandatory. In Hesse, where Wiesbaden is located, the law will take effect Monday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this report.
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VIRUS OUTBREAK

26 ships have infected sailors

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Sailors on 26 Navy ships have the coronavirus now and 14 other ships have had confirmed cases of illness, though crew members have recovered, a Navy official said Wednesday.

All the ships are in port and none of the 90 ships at sea have cases of the virus, according to the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The Navy has 297 warships.

The Navy official would not say which ships had cases of the virus or how many sailors were infected, only that it was small numbers.

The Navy has been the hardest

hit of the military services by the coronavirus with 997 cases now. In total, 1,298 sailors have been infected by the virus.

Most of the Navy's cases are among the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, which docked in Guam on March 27 due to an outbreak among its sailors, which number about 4,800. As of Wednesday, 777 sailors have tested positive, of which 63 have recovered. Six Roosevelt sailors are hospitalized now at a Navy hospital in Guam. One Roosevelt sailor, Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died April 13 from the virus.

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Pandemic threatens to delay Pentagon weapons production

By ANDREW CLEVINGER
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department expects the global coronavirus outbreak will delay its major weapons programs by about three months, the Pentagon's top weapons buyer said Monday.

Ellen Lord, the Defense undersecretary for acquisitions and sustainment, did not name specific programs or companies but suggested the delays would be widespread.

"Domestically, we are seeing the greatest impacts in the aviation supply chain, shipbuilding and small space launch," Lord said.

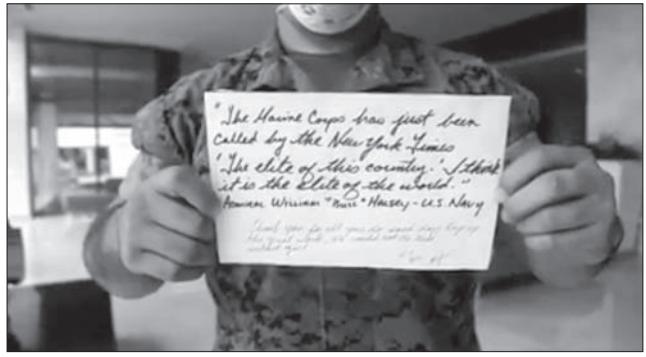
The Pentagon has tried keeping its industrial base solvent and working during the pandemic, including increasing reimbursements for work that is not yet

complete.

That change, Lord said, will start this week and provide \$3 billion in increased cash flow to the industry. Lord praised defense giants Lockheed Martin Corp. and Boeing Co. for committing to push those extra funds out to their smaller suppliers and said she hoped other major primes would follow suit.

The Pentagon also wants additional relief from Congress to help companies pay salaries and keep their workforce intact even where the pandemic has forced production lines to shut down and caused other disruptions. Lord did not specify how much.

By and large, the defense sector has kept working during the COVID-19 crisis, thanks in large part to its workforce being declared essential by the Homeland Security Department.



FACEBOOK/CTF 75

This screen shot from a video shows a message from a USS Theodore Roosevelt sailor to the Marines on Guam, showing appreciation for the support the sailors have received.

Roosevelt sailors show gratitude for Marines aiding them on Guam

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

USS Theodore Roosevelt sailors on Guam went to their balconies and cheered the Marines supporting them at civilian hotels, where they are in 14-day medical isolation after an outbreak of the coronavirus on the aircraft carrier.

The sailors have also expressed their gratitude in letters and notes for the Marines, said Capt. Vicente Huerta of the 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, in a video posted on the Commander Navy Task Force 75 Facebook page.

"My Marines just started making sure that all of the sailors here receive everything that they need," Huerta said. "As the sailors started seeing that, we just started getting flooded with a bunch of letters and them showing their appreciation."

The cheers and applause from the hotel balconies gave Huerta

goosebumps, he said.

"Okay, this is a different type of deployment," he said.

Earlier this month, videos showing hundreds of crew members cheering and applauding the ship's skipper, Capt. Brett E. Crozier, captured headlines after the Navy fired him over the leak of a memo, in which he urged more rapid evacuation of personnel.

Days later, acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly traveled to Guam where he briefly visited the ship and criticized Crozier in remarks to the crew, leading to Modly's resignation when audio of the address also leaked.

As of Thursday, some 4,200 of the ship's crew members had been moved ashore, and 840 had tested positive for the disease, with 100% of the crew having been tested and only "a small number of results" still pending of the infected sailors, 88 had recovered and one, Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, had died.

Six were still being treated at

Naval Hospital Guam, though none were in intensive care, the Navy said.

The ship has undergone thorough cleaning, but sailors may not be getting out of isolation at the end of the prescribed 14 days, Politico reported Tuesday, citing an internal memo in which Navy officials indicated that the virus may remain active in asymptomatic individuals longer than previously thought.

The memo called a halt to "outing testing" for those in quarantine and holding their release until further evaluation could be completed, Politico reported.

A second video posted on the Task Force 75 Facebook page this week showed service members writing and reading whiteboard messages to the crew to remain "TR strong" and "hold fast."

For Huerta, the show of gratitude from the isolated crew "has been probably the most gratifying thing I've done in the Marine Corps."

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AAFES: Alcohol sales at exchange stores surged by 50% in March

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — With many clubs and restaurants on military bases closed and civilian establishments off limits thanks to the coronavirus, retail alcohol sales on U.S. bases worldwide soared by 50% the third week of March, an exchange spokesman said.

"Alcohol sales across the retail industry have understandably seen increases as bars and restaurants have closed and demand has shifted to at-home consumption," Army and Air Force Exchange Service spokesman Chris Ward said in an email Sunday.

According to Nielsen data, U.S. alcohol beverage sales in retail

formats jumped 55% in the third week of March compared to the same time a year ago, Ward said.

"AAFES worldwide sales during this same timeframe were slightly below with the broader industry trend, reflecting an increase of 50% vs. prior year," he said.

During the first half of April, however, AAFES worldwide alcohol sales are only up 10% on the same period last year, Ward said.

The Navy Exchange Service Command did not respond to emailed questions about sales at its stores.

A mask-wearing Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean McDonald, 28, of Seattle, pulled a six-pack of lager from a convenience store refrigerator.

erator Wednesday evening at Yokota, home to U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo.

"It's my daughter's birthday and we're going to celebrate," he said but added that he doesn't think he's drinking more than usual despite restrictions in place at Yokota since March 26.

"I'm a competitive bodybuilder," McDonald said. "We don't go out drinking very frequently."

To curb the spread of the coronavirus, 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Otis Jones requires those living and working on Yokota to restrict their movements to the base and its immediate vicinity. Off-base residents are limited to a brief walk to and from Yokota or essential services in their neighborhoods.

No one affiliated with the base may patronize bars and restaurants other than take-out and drive-thru restaurants.

Another customer buying alcohol at the base convenience store, Marie Wolf, 40 of Dayton, Ohio, stocked up on a couple of bottles of pinot grigio and a carton of beer but said she's not drinking more than usual.

"I've got three kids at home," she said.

The World Health Organization warned in a statement April 14 that alcohol use, responsible for 3 million deaths a year worldwide, compromises the body's immune system.

"People should minimize their alcohol consumption at any

time, and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic," the organization said in its statement, referring to the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Ward said exchange stores also saw a spike in cigarette carton sales when shoppers were uncertain whether stores would remain open.

"Once this initial increased demand subsided, cigarette sales quickly returned to historic norms," he said. "Demand for tobacco products at Exchange facilities has declined significantly as unit sales have decreased 30% year-to-date as compared to prior year."

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Legislators adding to lockdown backlash

By GRIFF WITTE

The Washington Post

With hundreds arrayed before him, standing shoulder to shoulder, the retired Army colonel vented his fury from the steps of Pennsylvania's capitol building.

The governor's orders to shut down businesses in the face of a pandemic, he railed to a crowd of protesters this week, amounted to "tyranny." He had battled overseas to defend freedom. Now, with the governor telling healthy people like him to stay home — "What the heck is going on here? I'm not sick!" — the fight had come to America's shores.

"It's time to rise up!" he exhorted as the crowd roared.

Then Doug Mastriano walked inside the soaring, green-domed home of the Pennsylvania legislature and began his day job: as a Republican state senator.

With a backlash against coronavirus restrictions generating demonstrations at state capital buildings nationwide, organizers have framed the protests as organic and grassroots.

The push among legislators is adding to the pressure on governors who have resisted Trump's wish to see states open up again as of May 1. While some governors have eagerly announced an easing of restrictions, most have not, citing guidance from medical experts that a premature opening could cost many lives.

But governors who stay the course with closures are increasingly facing demands from state lawmakers that they pivot faster.

In Ohio, business groups are aggressively lobbying the state legislature to force Republican Gov. Mike DeWine to open up to save the economy. Wisconsin's Republican-dominated legislature on Tuesday went so far as to sue health officials advising Democratic Gov. Tony Evers to block an extension of his stay-at-home order.

And in Pennsylvania, the Republican majority passed a bill to make it far easier for businesses to resume operations.

The Democratic governor, Tom Wolf, vetoed that legislation last week, citing the opinion of medical experts who insist the state is not yet ready to safely relax. But Republicans have vowed to try again — and to peel off enough Democratic support to override any veto.

With unemployment and frustration both



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Protesters demonstrate at the state Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa., on Monday.

rising fast, that point may come, said Christopher Borick, director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion.

"When it comes really depends on the nature of the virus, and on the governor's ability to make his case that his actions are called for," Borick said.

The showdown in Pennsylvania — perhaps the nation's ultimate swing state — reflects the clash of visions playing out across the country as state governments weigh how and when to allow their populations to resume some semblance of normal life. As in most states, it's largely been absent in Pennsylvania, where schools, businesses deemed nonessential and gatherings of any size have all been shut down or banned.

Although backing for stay-at-home measures has been relatively robust — in Pennsylvania, and nationwide — there is a stark political divide, with Republicans significantly less likely to be supportive.

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll released Thursday found that 80% of respondents said strict shelter-in-place measures are worth it to protect people and limit the spread of the coronavirus, including 61% of

Republicans asked. A Yahoo News/YouGov national poll released Sunday found that 60% of respondents opposed protesters calling to immediately end stay-at-home and social distancing measures vs. 22% who supported them.

In Pennsylvania, attitudes about whether to stay closed or open have been driven both by partisanship and geography.

Most of the state's approximately 36,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been concentrated in Pennsylvania's largest city, Philadelphia, and the surrounding suburbs — almost all Democratic strongholds. In more rural central and western parts of the state, where Republicans dominate, cases have been relatively few — and the backlash against stay-at-home orders has been building.

When protesters gathered at the state capitol building Monday in Harrisburg, the parade of state legislators who spoke out against the governor's restrictions reflected that divide.

The protest was called by several groups that did not exist only weeks ago. One of them, Pennsylvanians Against Excessive Quarantine, was created by a trio of broth-

ers — Ben, Christopher and Aaron Dorr — who are longtime gun-rights activists. Links from Facebook pages promoting the rally redirected to the site for a Dorr-run group, the Pennsylvania Firearms Association.

Organizers had said rallygoers would observe social distancing. But while many stayed in their vehicles — honking and cheering as they drove past — hundreds and perhaps as many as 3,000, according to police, emerged to mingle freely, shake hands and applaud side by side as speaker upon speaker demanded an end to the statewide shutdown.

"We're going to make some noise and let the elected officials know we're here!" Aaron Bernstein announced as he took his turn at the mic.

Bernstein, like most of those who addressed the crowd, is himself an elected official: a Republican state representative whose relatively rural district hugs the Ohio border. In an interview, he said he was driven to speak out by the anger he was hearing among his constituents toward restrictions that have crushed many small businesses even as large retailers continue to operate.

"Many governors have taken action with a hatchet rather than a scalpel," he said. "Big-box stores are able to stay open while mom-and-pop businesses are left out in the cold."

Rather than judge whether businesses can remain open based on what's essential or nonessential, Bernstein said, the standard should be whether the business can be run safely. And individuals, he said, should be given more authority to make that determination — a theme repeated by many who spoke Monday.

"We don't need our lives micromanaged," Russ Diamond, a lower Republican state representative, told the crowd. "I trust you."

Public health experts, however, said the rally was not necessarily confidence-inspiring. Rachel Levine, the state's health secretary, noted that while citizens have a right to protest, the demonstration brought people from different parts of the state — and even from other states — into close contact with one another for a prolonged period. Many were not wearing masks or gloves.

"That," she said, "is how covid-19 spreads."

Unemployment: April jobs report expected to show staggering losses

FROM FRONT PAGE

Thursday's report, showing that the pace of layoffs remains immense, could heighten demands for re-openings.

Some governors have begun easing restrictions despite warnings from health authorities that it may be too soon to do so without causing new infections. In Georgia, gyms, hair salons and bowling alleys can reopen Friday. Texas has reopened its state parks.

Yet those scattered re-openings won't lead to much rehiring, especially if Americans are too wary to leave their homes. Most people say they favor stay-at-home orders, according to a survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs, and believe it won't be safe to lift social distancing guidelines anytime soon. And there are likely more layoffs to come from many small businesses that have tried but failed to receive loans from a fed-

eral aid program.

The number of people who are receiving unemployment benefits has reached a record 16 million, surpassing a previous high of 12 million set in 2010, just after the 2008-09 recession ended. This figure reflects people who have managed to navigate the online or telephone application systems in their states, have been approved for benefits and are actually receiving checks.

In some states, many laid-off workers have run into obstacles in trying to file applications for benefits. Among them are millions of freelancers, contractors, gig workers and self-employed people — a category of workers who are now eligible for unemployment benefits for the first time.

"This has been a really devastating shock for a lot of families and small businesses," said Aaron Sojourner, a labor economist at the University of Minnesota. "It is beyond their control and no fault of their own."

In Florida, applications for unemploy-

ment benefits nearly tripled last week to 505,000, the second-highest total behind much-larger California's 534,000. Florida has had trouble processing many of its applications.

The figure suggests that the state is finally clearing a backlog of filings from jobless workers.

In Michigan, 17% of the state's workforce is now receiving unemployment aid, the largest proportion in the country. It is followed by Rhode Island at 15%, Nevada at 13.7% and Georgia at 13.6%.

Just about every major industry has absorbed sudden and severe layoffs. Economists at the Federal Reserve estimate that hotels and restaurants have shed the most jobs — 4 million since Feb. 15. That is nearly one-third of all the employees in that industry.

Construction has shed more than 9% of its jobs. So has a category that includes retail, shipping and utilities, the Fed esti-

mated. A category that is made up of data processing and online publishing has cut 4.7%.

When the government issues the April jobs report on May 8, economists expect it to show breathtaking losses. Economists at JPMorgan are predicting a loss of 25 million jobs. That would be nearly triple the total lost during the entire Great Recession period.

A \$2 trillion-plus federal relief package that was signed into law last month made millions of gig workers, contractors and self-employed people newly eligible for unemployment aid.

But most states have yet to approve unemployment applications from those workers because they're still trying to reprogram their systems to do so. As a result, many people who have lost jobs or income aren't being counted as laid-off because their applications for unemployment aid haven't been processed.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Strict warnings for Ramadan as shutdowns ease

Associated Press

BANGKOK — The world inched toward a new phase in the coronavirus crisis on Thursday, as some countries like Vietnam and New Zealand with few new cases moved toward ending their pandemic shutdowns, while others like Singapore and Japan were doubling down on measures to prevent a surge in infections.

Like the U.S., many countries are moving from crisis mode to figuring out how to live with the virus by modifying pre-pandemic routines with precautions, more testing and containment of flare-ups, mindful of the potential for future waves of the virus.

Authorities in the capital of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim majority nation, extended to May 22 strict disease-fighting restrictions with the approach of the month-long Ramadan fasting season, which begins with the new moon this week.

With traditional, communal meals for the poor, large fast-breaking dinners with family and friends and cultural events after sunset canceled, the world's 1.8 billion Muslims find themselves cut off from much of what makes the month special as authorities fight the pandemic.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Muslims to "focus on our common enemy — the virus," and repeated an earlier appeal for an immediate cease-fire for all conflicts. In a separate message, he urged countries to provide equitable help to all, saying the pandemic was "a human crisis that is fast becoming a human rights crisis."

Some leaders are using the crisis as a pretext for repressive measures, Guterres said. "The message is clear: People — and their rights — must be front and center," he said.

The United Nations has warned

that tens of millions of people risk starvation as the coronavirus pandemic, a plague of locusts in Africa and other disruptions prevent food from reaching the world's most vulnerable populations in places like Yemen and South Sudan.

A report released Wednesday estimated that at least 135 million people are at acute risk of starvation due to conflicts and other factors. The report was compiled before shutdowns, border closures and freezes on transport activities began disrupting food supplies.

In response, the EU pledged \$22 billion for helping bridge such disruptions to provide help to vulnerable communities in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East, parts of Asia and Latin America.

While some parts of the world are just beginning to grapple with the pandemic, in China authorities reported no new deaths and just 10 new cases on Thursday. The number of people hospitalized dropped to 959, with 63 considered serious cases.

As new cases drop close to zero, China has re-opened many businesses. Middle and high school seniors preparing for exams are returning to classes. But a ban on foreign arrivals and strict quarantine measures remain in place to prevent an influx of new cases from abroad or fresh infections among those thought to have recovered or who had no symptoms but could still be spreading the virus.

Neighboring Vietnam, which moved quickly to close its borders and trace coronavirus cases, has reported no new cases in the past three days and is preparing to loosen restrictions.

New Zealand, which announced just three new cases of the coronavirus on Thursday, remained on strict lockdown, with 1,451 confirmed cases and 16 deaths, but was preparing to ease limits



Indian actor Rajkumar, feeds monkeys cucumber near a Hindu temple during nationwide lockdown in Gauhati, India, on Thursday.



Muslim worshipers offer noon prayers at a mosque, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on Tuesday.

next month.

But the virus continues to pop up unexpectedly.

Singapore has been reporting hundreds of new cases each day, many traced to crowded migrant worker dormitories.

Japanese officials said Thursday that 14 more crew members on an Italian-operated cruise ship docked in southern Japan tested positive for the coronavirus, raising the breakout on board to 48.

The Costa Atlantica has been docked in Nagasaki with 623

crew members and no passengers since late January for repairs and maintenance.

Other infected crew members are quarantined in single rooms, and officials planned to test all by Friday. Officials are investigating how the virus could have got on board after discovering the first known case in a crew member who tested positive after developing a cough and fever.

An earlier outbreak aboard the U.S.-operated Diamond Princess cruise ship, which was quarantined offshore of Yokohama for weeks, resulted in more than 700 cases among its 3,700 passengers and crew. Separately, Japan has about 12,000 cases, with 300 deaths.

The global outbreak of coronavirus has infected more than 2.6 million people and killed about 183,000, including more than 45,000 in the United States, according to a tally compiled by John Hopkins University from official government figures.

The true numbers are believed to be far higher, and most people infected suffer from only mild or moderate symptoms and survive.

But the crushing death toll of the pandemic has left many people understandably cautious and it will likely take weeks, even months, for people to regain confidence and resume normal activities. Future waves of outbreaks could reverse any gains in the interim, Dr. Robert Blendon, a Harvard professor of health policy and political analysis said.

As President Donald Trump shifts to what White House officials call a new chapter in the response, officials face a challenge in reassuring the public while ensuring enough precautions are taken as communities emerge from shutdowns to prevent fresh onslaughts of cases.

House expected to send 4th bipartisan aid bill to Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House is reassembling to send President Donald Trump a fourth bipartisan bill to help businesses crippled by the coronavirus, an almost \$500 billion measure that many lawmakers are already looking beyond.

Anchoring the latest bill is a request by the Trump administration to replenish a fund to help small- and medium-sized businesses with payroll, rent and other expenses.

Supporters are already warning that more money will be needed almost imme-

dately for the business-backed Paycheck Protection Program. Battle lines are forming over the next measure amid growing demands to help out state and local governments, the Postal Service and first responders.

Thursday's vote in the House would bring the total cost of the four bipartisan bills to respond to various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to about \$2.5 trillion, according to the Congressional Budget Office, Washington's impartial scorekeeper.

The bill started two weeks ago as a simple Trump-sought \$250 billion replenish-

ment of the oversubscribed payroll subsidy program and grew from there. The payroll program provides forgivable loans so businesses can continue paying workers while forced to stay closed for social distancing and stay-at-home orders.

It also contains \$100 billion demanded by Democrats for hospitals and a nationwide testing program, along with a \$60 billion set-aside for small banks and an alternative network of community development banks that focus on development in urban neighborhoods and rural areas ignored by many lenders. There's also \$60 billion for

small-business loans and grants delivered through the Small Business Administration's existing disaster aid program.

Republicans say the delays likely forced some businesses waiting for the payroll subsidies to close. But they are nonetheless sure to back the measure by a wide margin.

The legislation swept through the Senate on Tuesday by voice vote barely hours after being first circulated.

The House, however, will conduct a roll-call vote in which lawmakers will vote in turns taken under social distancing rules.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

As people stay home, Earth gets cleaner

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

An unplanned grand experiment is changing Earth.

As people across the globe stay home to stop the spread of the coronavirus, the air has cleaned up, albeit temporarily. Smog stopped choking New Delhi, one of the most polluted cities in the world, and India's getting views of sights not visible in decades. Nitrogen dioxide pollution in the northeastern United States is down 30%. Rome air pollution levels from mid-March to mid-April were down 49% from a year ago. Stars seem more visible at night.

People are also noticing animals in places and at times they don't usually. Coyotes have漫ed along downtown Chicago's Michigan Avenue and near San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. A puma roamed the streets of Santiago, Chile. Goats took over a town in Wales. In India, daring wildlife has already become bolder, with hungry monkeys entering homes and opening refrigerators to look for food.

"It is giving us this quite extraordinary insight into just how much of a mess we humans are making of our beautiful planet," says conservation scientist Stuart Pimm of Duke University. "This is giving us an opportunity to magically see how much better it can be."

Chris Field, director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, assembled scientists to assess the ecological changes happening with so much of humanity housebound. Scientists, stuck at home like the rest of us, have said that they are eager to explore unexpected changes in weeds, insects, weather patterns, noise and light pollution. Italy's government is working on an ocean expedition to explore sea changes from the lack of people.

"In many ways, we kind of whacked the Earth system with a sledgehammer and now we see what Earth's response is," Field says.

Researchers are tracking dramatic drops in traditional air pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide, smog and tiny particles. These types of pollution kill up to 7 million people a year worldwide, according to Health Effects Institute president Dan Greenbaum.

The air from Boston to Washington is the cleanest it has been since a NASA satellite started measuring nitrogen dioxide in 2005, said NASA atmospheric scientist Barry Lefer. Largely caused by burning of fossil fuels, this pollution is short-lived, so the air gets cleaner quickly. Compared to the previous five years, March air pollution is down 46% in Paris, 35% in Bengaluru, India, 38% in Sydney, 29% in Los Angeles, 26% in Rio de Janeiro and 9%



MANISH SWARUP/AP

This combination of Monday, Oct. 28, 2019, top, and Monday, April 20, 2020, photos shows India Gate in New Delhi.

in Durban, South Africa, according to NASA measurements.

"We're getting a glimpse of what might happen if we start switching to non-polluting cars," Lefer said. Cleaner air has been most noticeable in India and China. On April 3, residents of Jalandhar, a city in north India's Punjab, woke up to a view not seen for decades: snow-capped Himalayan peaks more than 100 miles away.

The greenhouse gases that trap heat and cause climate change stay in the atmosphere for 100 years or more, so the pandemic shutdown is unlikely to affect global warming, said Breakthrough Institute climate scientist Zeke Hausfather. Carbon dioxide levels are still rising, but not as fast as last year.

Aerosol pollution, which doesn't stay airborne long, is also dropping. If aerosols cool the planet, so NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt is investigating whether their falling levels may be warming local temperatures for now.

Field said that he's most intrigued by increased urban sightings of coyotes, pumas and other wildlife that are becoming video

social media staples. Boar-like javelinas congregated outside of an Arizona shopping center. Even New York City birds seem hungrier and bolder.

In Adelaide, Australia, police shared a video of a kangaroo hopping around a mostly empty downtown, and a pack of jackals occupied an urban park in Tel Aviv, Israel.

We're not being invaded. The wildlife has always been there, but many animals are shy, Duke's Pimm says. They come out when humans stay home.

For sea turtles across the globe, humans have made it difficult to nest on sandy beaches. The turtles need to be undisturbed and emerging hatchlings get confused by beachfront lights, said David Godfrey, executive director of the Sea Turtle Conservancy.

But with lights and people away, this year's sea turtle nesting so far seems much better from India to Costa Rica to Florida, Godfrey said.

"There's some silver lining for wildlife in what otherwise is a fairly catastrophic time for humans," he says.

Sweden strategy: Stores open, keep your distance

BY NICLAS ROLANDER
Bloomberg

Sweden's unusual approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic is starting to yield results, according to the country's top epidemiologist.

Anders Tegnell, the architect behind Sweden's relatively relaxed response to COVID-19, told local media that the latest figures on infection rates and fatalities indicate the situation is starting to stabilize.

"We're on a sort of plateau," Tegnell told Swedish news agency TT.

Sweden has left its schools, gyms, cafes, bars and restaurants open throughout the spread of the pandemic. Instead, the government has urged citizens to act responsibly and follow social distancing guidelines.

The spread of COVID-19 across the globe is triggering different responses across national and even state borders, as authorities struggle to contain an outbreak about which much remains unknown.

It's unclear which strategy will ultimately prove most effective, and even experts in Sweden warn that it's too early to draw conclusions. But given the huge economic damage caused by strict lockdowns, the Swedish approach has drawn considerable interest around the world.

Part of that approach relies on having access to one of the world's best-functioning health care systems. At no stage did Sweden see a real shortage of medical equipment or hospital capacity, and tents set up as emergency care facilities around the country have mostly remained empty.

As of Sunday, Sweden had reported 1,540 deaths tied to COVID-19, an increase of 29 from Saturday. That's considerably more than in the rest of Scandinavia, but much less than in Italy, Spain and the U.K., both in absolute and relative terms.

Tegnell isn't the only high-level Swedish official to claim that the country may be over the worst.



ALI LORESTANI, TT/AP

People enjoy ice cream Monday at an outdoor cafe in central Stockholm, Sweden. Sweden has bucked the lockdown trend embraced by other countries during the coronavirus outbreak.

"The trend we have seen in recent days, with a more flat curve where we have many new cases, but not a daily increase — is stabilizing," Karin Tegmark Wisell, head of the microbiology department at Sweden's Public Health Authority, said Friday. "We're seeing the same pattern for patients in intensive care."

Just two weeks ago, the picture was considerably bleaker, and Prime Minister Stefan Lofven suggested that the government may need to review its approach amid the prospect of thousands of Swedish deaths. In particular, the failure to protect people in nursing homes has stood out as a clear weakness, which has contributed to higher death rates than in neighboring countries.

Yet overall, Lofven's strategy has won the approval of Swedes, and his personal popularity has soared.

"I have very high confidence in the Swedish authorities that manage this," Volvo Cars CEO Hakan Samuelsson said in a phone interview.

Volvo, which was forced to halt production across Europe and furlough about 20,000 Swedish employees, resumed production at its Swedish plants Monday.

"Our measures are all based on individuals taking responsibility, and that is also an important part of the Swedish model," Samuelsson said.

Sweden's COVID-19 strategy may ultimately result in a smaller — albeit historically deep — economic contraction than the rest of Europe is now facing, according to HSBC Global Research economist James Pomeroy.

Pomeroy pointed to some Swedish characteristics that may help the country deal with the current crisis. More than half of Swedish households are single-person, making social distancing easier to carry out. More people work from home than anywhere else in Europe, and everyone has access to fast internet, which helps large chunks of the workforce stay productive away from the office.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Where do states stand on plans to reopen?

Associated Press

More governors are reopening their economies by the day around the country, creating a patchwork of stay-at-home orders and other business restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Some states are moving faster to reopen, like Georgia, Oklahoma and Montana, where the governor on Wednesday gave the green light to schools to open back up in early May. Other states such as New Hampshire are considering extensions. And some states, such as Wyoming and South Dakota, never instituted a stay-at-home order to begin with.

Here's a look at where states stand on reopening:

Making moves

MONTANA: Churches can hold services on Sunday, and restaurants, bars and casinos can reopen on May 4 with reduced capacity and hours under a plan announced Wednesday by Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock. Schools have been allowed to return to in-classroom instruction May 7.

GEORGIA: Republican Gov. Brian Kemp's call to reopen shuttered businesses like gyms, hair and nail salons, bowling alleys and tattoo parlors will take effect Friday. Restaurants may open in service mode. Atlanta's mayor has suggested the logging of moves so quickly, however, could lead to a state of emergency if they're not reopened. Georgia's testing system has lagged behind much of the nation, and public health experts have warned that moving too quickly could fuel a resurgence.

OKLAHOMA: Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt announced Tuesday to allow non-elective surgeries to resume, and hair and nail salons, barbershops, spas and pet grooming facilities to open again, provided only if they adhere to social distancing and strict sanitation protocols. Restaurant dining rooms, movie theaters, gyms and places of worship can open May 1 as long as businesses follow social distancing and sanitization protocols.

ALASKA: Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy's administration announced plans to begin allowing more limited reopening of restaurants and other businesses starting Friday. Restaurants, for example, would be able to provide limited dine-in service, but won't initially be able to operate at limited capacity and seat households members at the same table.

TEXAS: State parks reopened and non-essential surgeries have resumed, and all retailers will be allowed to sell items curbside starting Friday. Gov. Greg Abbott said that more relaxed restrictions are coming Monday.

South Carolina: Gov. Henry McMaster, a Republican, has begun to gradually allow more businesses to reopen. On Tuesday, non-essential businesses such as grocery stores, department stores and boutiques could reopen, and local governments were allowed to issue permits. McMaster said that the timing for additional steps depends on reports from state health officials.

TENNESSEE: Gov. Bill Lee announced earlier this week that he would not renew the state's stay-at-home order, which expires April 30. Instead, he said that businesses in most counties will be allowed to reopen starting May 1. More than a dozen governors had not renewed what businesses will be the first to phase back open, and said that "he'll give those details later." Lee said that he would phase Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville can decide on their own when to reopen.

FLORIDA: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, has asked his state coronavirus task force for recommendations by the end of the week on plans for reopening the state. He said that the state should look at risk factors as it starts to reopen, and that non-essential services like essential, DeSantis has already allowed beaches to reopen.

Louisiana: Gov. John Bel Edwards statewide stay-at-home order expires April 30. The Democratic governor has said that he will allow non-essential businesses by May 1, but hasn't yet described what he'll reopen. In a first, small step, the governor announced that some non-emergency medical procedures can resume on Monday.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

A woman adjusts her child's protective mask as they wait in line Thursday to be screened for COVID-19 at Gotham Health East New York in Brooklyn.

VERMONT: Republican Gov. Phil Scott has taken steps toward loosening restrictions on nonessential businesses. Still, many of the altered provisions remain strict, such as no work crews more than 10 people.

UTAH: In Utah, one of the few states with a statewide shelter-in-place order is voluntary, Republican Gov. Gary Herbert has outlined plans to begin a slow reopening of the state's economy, including elective surgeries to resume Wednesday, saying that hospitals now have enough to meet short-term needs and growth in new coronavirus hospitalizations has decreased.

COLORADO: Democratic Gov. Jared Polis outlined a plan to ease statewide stay-at-home and nonessential business closures Monday. All nonessential retailers may soon reopen, restaurants and hair salons, barbershops, spas and pet grooming facilities will open again, provided only if they adhere to social distancing and strict sanitation protocols. Restaurant dining rooms, movie theaters, gyms and places of worship can open May 1 as long as businesses follow social distancing and sanitization protocols.

ARIZONA: Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said Wednesday that he will lift the state's stay-at-home order, but will allow hospitals to resume elective surgeries May 1. The Republican governor also said he would extend the order to extend the order set to expire April 30 will be based on the virus data next week. Ducey said that he does not want to lose any gains made during the stay-at-home order. On March 20, the governor said that he could continue the order, modify it or let it expire.

More gradual

MISSOURI: Republican Gov. Mike Parson extended his stay-at-home order last week through May 3, but delayed its resumption of non-essential businesses to May 1. Missouri's governor said that he hopes to begin lifting some of the state's other restrictions May 4 and plans to announce them in phases, beginning with one on restaurants April 29. Arkansas does not have a broad stay-at-home order but has imposed other rules.

ARKANSAS: Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Wednesday that the state will ease its ban on elective surgeries starting Monday. Hutchinson said that he hopes to begin lifting some of the state's other restrictions May 4 and plans to announce them in phases, beginning with one on restaurants April 29. Arkansas does not have a broad stay-at-home order but has imposed other rules.

OREGON: Republican Gov. Kate Brown said that she will allow non-essential businesses to reopen May 1, without providing details. He said that the reopening must involve protocols such as frequent hand-washing and wearing masks. DeWeine said that it would take much longer to resume mass gatherings like concerts and sporting events.

KENTUCKY: Gov. Andy Beshear announced Wednesday to ramp up coronavirus testing with new sites opening next week in Louisville and Lexington, the state's two largest cities. The governor also said that he will require frequent hand-washing and wearing masks. DeWeine said that it would take much longer to resume mass gatherings like concerts and sporting events.

North Carolina: Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper said that this weekend he'll release more details on testing, contract tracing and rate goals the state must meet before easing restrictions. Cooper also said that he would also say that he would announce whether a stay-at-home order set to expire next week would continue.

WISCONSIN: Democratic Gov. Tony Evers has announced a bipartisan group of lawmakers, business leaders and state officials to examine how the state can begin to reopen its economy. The state's stay-at-home order, which was set to expire Saturday, will now continue.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has appointed a bipartisan group of lawmakers, business leaders and state officials to examine how the state can begin to reopen its economy. The state's stay-at-home order, which was set to expire Saturday, will now continue.

including adequate testing and the pace of vaccinations. But there are continuing calls for easing restrictions in the state that had the first major deadly outbreak, including from a sheriff who said that he won't enforce the order because it violates constitutional rights.

INDIANA: The statewide stay-at-home order has been extended until May 1. Eric Holcomb, who lifted limits on nonessential companies from March 20 to April 1, has extended the stay-at-home order for another month. Holcomb, who is a Democrat, announced some initial steps to ease rules starting with allowing people to walk and jog in city parks beginning April 27.

MICHIGAN: Michigan's stay-at-home order lasts through April 30. Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Wednesday that she will extend the order longer if necessary, and is hoping to relax some restrictions to start reopening sectors of the economy. Some sectors, such as restaurants and bars, will be among the nation's toughest — will be in effect for a "long time," she said, hinting that the elderly and people with chronic lung problems may face restrictions longer than others. She is expected to speak more about her plan on Friday.

ALABAMA: Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey is expected to announce next week what businesses will be allowed to reopen, a Republican said that she is eager to reopen, but urged people to continue following the order. The order, in place through April, disallows diners in restaurants, service clubs and non-essential businesses such as salons and entertainment venues.

MISSOURI: Republican Gov. Mike Parson extended his stay-at-home order last week through May 3, but delayed its resumption of non-essential businesses to May 1. Missouri's governor said that he hopes to begin lifting some of the state's other restrictions May 4 and plans to announce them in phases, beginning with one on restaurants April 29. Arkansas does not have a broad stay-at-home order but has imposed other rules.

MISSISSIPPI: Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has issued a stay-at-home order to combat the coronavirus pandemic, but he has not set a timeline. On April 20, Reeves allowed nonessential businesses, including florists and clothing stores, to start delivery services. The order, which was set to expire Monday, said that Reeves had said that people should continue social distancing beyond then.

OREGON: Democratic Gov. Kate Brown this week circulated Oregon's own version of a stay-at-home order to combat the coronavirus pandemic, including allowing child care facilities to reopen in phase one and possibly restaurants in phase two. The order, which was set to expire Monday, said that Brown has listed no specific end date for her social distancing directives.

PENNSYLVANIA: Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, has issued a stay-at-home order to combat the coronavirus pandemic, but he has suggested that he could his stay-at-home order expire after May 4 for residents of some counties and reopen others later. The order, which was set to expire Monday, said that Wolf will work with neighboring New Jersey and Connecticut.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has appointed a bipartisan group of lawmakers, business leaders and state officials to examine how the state can begin to reopen its economy. The state's stay-at-home order, which was set to expire Saturday, will now continue.

MASSACHUSETTS: Gov. Charlie Baker said that it's too early to begin reopening the state's economy. The Republican said that there will likely be further extensions.

KANSAS: Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, has promised a phased, two-month or a phased approach to reopening, but first needs widespread testing and better contact tracing. She's been under increasing pressure from business leaders to come up with a timeline to outline such a plan, and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, an influential business industry group, said Wednesday that large numbers of its members believe the economy should start reopening within the next two weeks.

HAWAII: A stay-at-home order imposed by Gov. David Ige lasts through April 30 and cannot be extended. The Democrat's order禁止了所有非必需品的商业活动, including restaurants, bars, gyms and movie theaters. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has extended the stay-at-home order for another month. Caldwell announced some initial steps to ease rules starting with allowing people to walk and jog in city parks beginning April 27.

DIABLO: Republican Gov. Brad Little planned to discuss economic recovery Thursday, but it's not clear what steps he'll take. His stay-at-home order restricts non-essential businesses from operating April 1 to April 30. Last week, he allowed more businesses to reopen if they could offer curbside service and ensure social distancing.

WEST VIRGINIA: Republican West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice has issued a stay-at-home order on nonessential businesses, repeatedly saying that he'll listen to health experts above all else. Still, the billion-dollar coal and agricultural businesses has recently lifted his public order to require nonessential businesses to close and said that hospitals will soon be able to resume elective procedures if they can prove they have enough protective equipment.

MINNESOTA: Minnesota's stay-at-home order runs through May 4, and it's not clear when Democratic Gov. Tim Walz will announce whether it will be extended. Walz has called for more testing and the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic to ramp up to as many as 20,000 virus tests per day. Walz has also proposed a \$1 billion stimulus package for workers who interact with the public.

CONNECTICUT: Gov. Ned Lamont said that he is looking toward May 20 as a date when he expects to be able to start thinking about reopening the state's economy. He said that, while his current executive order shutting down schools and nonessential businesses expires April 14, he will issue a new order on COVID-19 complications, much greater testing capability and more masks and other personal protective equipment for workers who interact with the public.

MINNESOTA: Minnesota's stay-at-home order runs through May 4, and it's not clear when Democratic Gov. Tim Walz will announce whether it will be extended. Walz has called for more testing and the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic to ramp up to as many as 20,000 virus tests per day. Walz has also proposed a \$1 billion stimulus package for workers who interact with the public.

NEW MEXICO: Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said that the state is likely to extend major social distancing and business restrictions through May 15 as it convenes a task force to determine when it's safe to fully reopen the economy. The state has no deadline or date for starting its first phase of reopening the economy. The Democratic governor has required nonessential businesses in several counties with no confirmed COVID-19 cases, citing new evidence of widespread asymptomatic infection.

ILLINOIS: Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker's stay-at-home order will also affect nonessential businesses, effective April 30. Schools were to remain closed through the semester with remote learning for students. Businesses will remain closed through the order, noting Tuesday that Illinois' virus cases likely won't peak before mid-May, rather than initially projected.

RHOADES ISLAND: Gov. Gina Raimondo has called on the state's residents to exercise caution as they begin to reenter the economy. The Democrat said Wednesday that people 60 and older should prepare to stay home even after a phased reopening of nonessential businesses.

NEBRASKA: Gov. Pete Ricketts has imposed a stay-at-home order, but has required that schools close and disallow a 10-person limit on gatherings, including social events. The Republican this week announced that the state had launched an effort to allow the testing of up to 3,000 people per day within the next four days from the current average of 600 to 800 tests.

IOWA: Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds has extended emergency orders requiring the closure of most retail businesses and schools. Both the state's many meat processing plants have been allowed to operate and have been dealing with numerous ill workers.

WISCONSIN: Gov. Tony Evers last week extended the state's stay-at-home order closing most nonessential businesses until April 27. Wisconsin's legislature on April 21 asked the state Supreme Court to block the order, arguing that it was a constitutional overreach.

NEVADA: Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak said Tuesday that he's not close to relaxing restrictions and will take a gradual approach. He has not given a date for easing restrictions, but the state has agreed to see at least a two-week trend of declining hospitalizations and positive virus tests before easing restrictions.

DELAWARE: Democratic Gov. John Carney has asked his state's legislature to develop a plan for reopening Delaware's economy based on guidance from the CDC, including 14 days of declining cases. Carney also said that extensive testing and contract tracing will be required before economic restrictions are loosened.

MAINE: Democratic Gov. Janet Mills announced last week that her administration is making plans for a phased economic restart. Timing is uncertain, however, because of a lack of a date for a reopening as a prerequisite for reopening the economy.

Wednesday that new hospitalizations is a key data point, and a modest increase continues to rise. When the state does begin to emerge from the stay-at-home order, what businesses are essential and more about what the rules everyone will need to follow, Baker said.

NATION

Severe weather sweeps through the South

Associated Press

MADILL, Okla. — Severe weather was moving through the South on Thursday after at least six people died in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana, including a factory worker whose body was found a quarter-mile away after an apparent tornado struck his workplace and severely damaged the town nearby.

More than 100,000 customers from Texas to Mississippi were without power Thursday as the severe weather moved through, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

Tornado warnings sent residents taking cover in southern Mississippi and Alabama. Trees and power lines were toppled in parts of west Alabama. No injuries or major damage were reported immediately.

The factory worker was killed when a suspected twister hit just as the workforce was leaving for the day from J&I Manufacturing in southern Oklahoma, Marshall County Emergency Management Director Robert Chaney said. The worker's body was found about a fourth of a mile from the factory, Chaney said.

That apparent tornado also caused widespread damage in Madill, near the Red River, said Donny Raley, the city's emergency manager.

A Louisiana man was found dead after a witness saw him try to retrieve a trash can from water near a drainage ditch. He lost his footing and was swept away by floodwaters, DeSoto Parish Sheriff Jayson Richardson told The Shreveport Times.

"There was some pretty extreme flooding here in Mansfield. Water like I've not seen in many,

many years, if ever," the sheriff told the newspaper. "Basically the water rose really fast and we had to rescue some people out of homes. I think we had about 20 or so homes that people were flooded in."

A woman was killed on a bridge in Woodworth, La., 15 miles south of Alexandria, due to the severe weather, the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office told KALB-TV. The sheriff's office did not provide any details on how she died.

At least three people were killed when an apparent tornado touched down in southeast Texas about 6 p.m. Wednesday near Onalaska, about 75 miles north of Houston, the Polk County Emergency Management System said in a statement. The storm also caused severe damage to homes and other structures in Seven Oaks, said Carrie Miller, a spokeswoman for Polk County Judge Sydney Murphy.

Charles Stephens of Onalaska told the Houston Chronicle that he and his wife were holed up in their bathroom when a large pine tree fell through their roof during the storms Wednesday night.

"It took me 45 minutes to climb through the roof to get out," Stephens said, adding that he had to use a hatchet to get his wife out of the debris.

The Alexandria campus of Louisiana State University also saw some damage from the storm. The university tweeted, "All resident students safe. There is damage to DeWitt Livestock building and a camper flipped over." The campus was also left without power.

A National Weather Service team will be dispatched to survey damage and to confirm whether the storms were tornadoes.



Above: This image made from video provided by Thomas Marcum shows a tornado seen from State Highway 48 in Durant, Okla., Wednesday. **Left:** People embrace after an apparent tornado touched down Wednesday in Onalaska, Texas. The storm caused severe damage to homes and other structures, but there were no immediate reports of deaths or serious injuries, officials said.

AP photos

US adds cameras at Mexico border despite drop in crossings

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Trump administration has been quietly adding military surveillance cameras at the U.S.-Mexico border in response to the coronavirus pandemic, though fewer people appear to be crossing illegally. It's the latest move as operations at the U.S.-Mexico border have become increasingly militarized and secretive.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show the Department of Defense, at the request of the Department of Homeland Security, sent 60 mobile surveillance cameras and 540 additional troops to the southwest border this month. The documents are unclassified but for official use only and were part of PowerPoint slides created last week to brief Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commander of U.S. Army North, the primary unit overseeing military operations at the border.

The cameras are manned by the military and will be removed after the pandemic has ended,

said Matthew Dymian, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, which is under the Department of Homeland Security.

The request for cameras was not "based on border flow numbers" but on rising coronavirus cases in Mexico, he said.

"Each person that avoids arrest and makes further entry into the United States has the potential to be carrying the COVID-19 virus and puts American lives at risk," Dymian said in an email.

Apprehensions of people crossing illegally have declined by 77% since a peak in May, according to Customs and Border Protection. April figures have not been released yet but are expected to be even lower.

The cameras were set up days before President Donald Trump signed an executive order Wednesday placing a 60-day pause on issuing green cards in an effort to limit competition for jobs in a U.S. economy wrecked by the coronavirus.

Trump has used emergency

powers during the pandemic to implement an aggressive border crackdown that has included turning away or immediately deporting asylum-seekers, including minors.

The military help means more Border Patrol agents can focus on apprehending people who cross illegally or expelling foreigners under a rarely used public health law that the Trump administration tapped amid the pandemic, Dymian said.

The addition of the mobile cameras, which are mounted in the back of trucks, bring the total to 192, according to the documents.

Southern border expert David Shirk sees no justification for adding cameras and troops. He pointed out that Mexico so far has a fraction of the number of COVID-19 cases that have been confirmed in the United States, while deportees flown back from the U.S. have introduced cases in their home countries.

"There is no evidence that suggests there are hordes of COVID-

19 patients lined up along the border," said Shirk, an associate political science professor at University of San Diego. "And there is no evidence that COVID-19 is even contributing to a surge in people trying to cross the border."

The government's own numbers show the opposite. Apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border have been declining for nine straight months.

As of Sunday, the 60 added mobile surveillance cameras planned to be manned and operational, according to the documents.

On Saturday, the U.S. reported a total of about 125 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to Mexico's health secretary. By comparison, the four U.S. states that border Mexico — California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas — recorded about 55,000 infections Sunday.

Pentagon officials as recently as August were considering a request from the Department

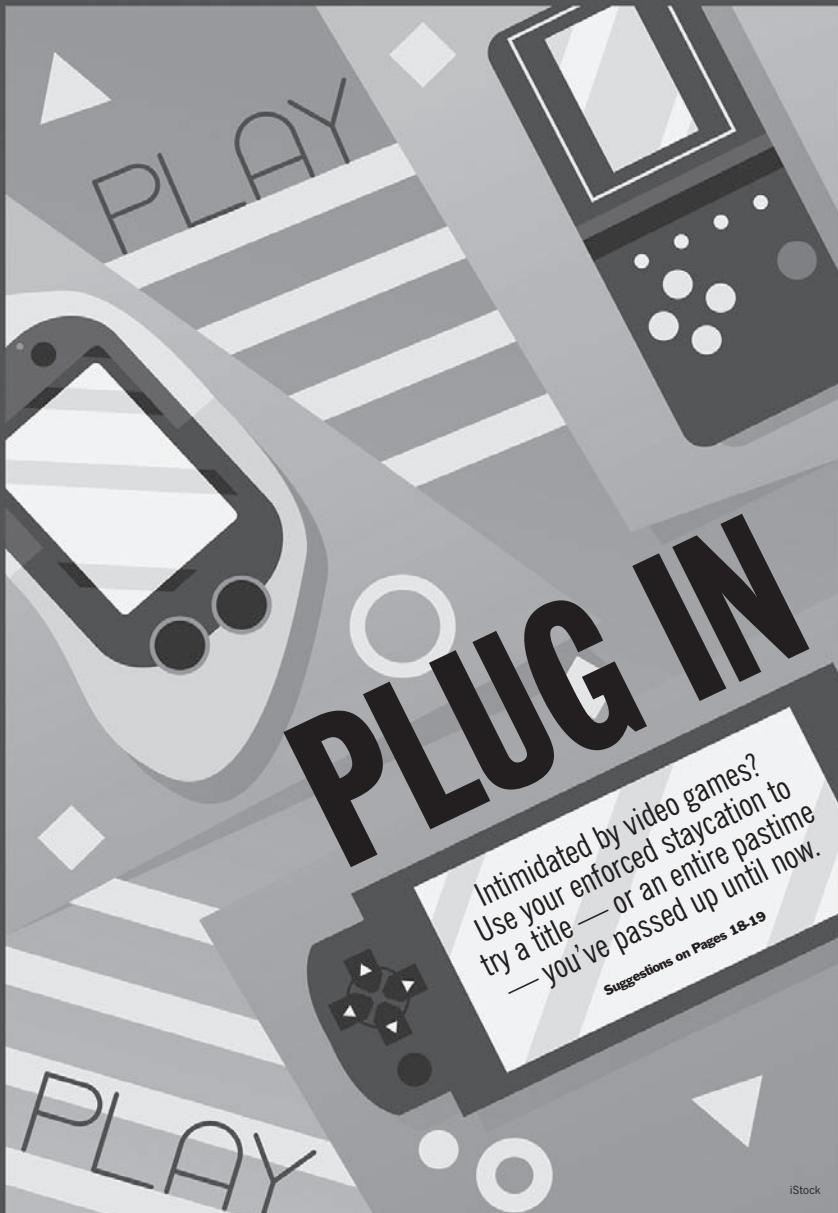
of Homeland Security to send reconnaissance planes and military drones designed for battlegrounds in Afghanistan and Iraq to the border.

Administration officials have declined to say whether that plan, first reported by Newsweek on Aug. 9, is still in the works. In December, Richardson, the U.S. Army North commander, ordered historically unclassified documents and daily briefings on the U.S.-Mexico border to be moved to a classified system to prevent further leaks.

With the additional troops, about 3,000 active-duty service members are on the border along with 2,500 National Guard troops. Barred from law enforcement duties, they have kept a low profile and are largely doing on-the-ground surveillance.

The border mission — marking one of the longest deployments of active-duty troops to the border in U.S. history — has cost more than \$500 million since October 2017.

WEEKEND



WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECH



iStock

Stay-at-home orders are causing people to rethink the role screen time plays in their lives.

The villain becomes a hero

'Screen time' has gone from sin to survival tool

By GEOFFREY A. FOWLER
AND HEATHER KELLY
The Washington Post

We're on Zoom calls six hours per day. The kids have gotten their own iPads. And no need to keep asking, Netflix — we're definitely still watching.

But we should stop being hard on ourselves for staring at screens and start embracing how they're helping us survive. And in this extraordinary moment, that's just what the doctor ordered.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, Brett Vergera abided by the treddy advice that excessive "screen time" was as bad as smoking, but for your brain. He would put his phone on airplane mode at work to make its screen less alluring. Then last month, New York forced him to stay at home with roommates he hardly knows. "There's just a different lens to the world we're currently in," the 27-year-old said during a break from playing the latest "Animal Crossing" video game.

Vergara joked he was "personally victimized" by a recent notification from Apple that his screen use had surged to 10 hours per day. "What do you expect from me? Get out of here, iPhone."

A few weeks in, America's great self-quarantine is prompting a rethink of one of the great villains of modern technology: screens. Now your devices are portals to employment and education, ways to keep you inside and build community, and vital reminders that you're not alone. The old concerns aren't gone, but they look different when people are just trying to get by.

Before our new normal, screen time concerns had spawned an industry of screen "addiction" experts, books and detox events. Researchers have linked excessive screen time to depression and obesity. In 2016, the American Academy of Pediatrics decreed that kids aged 2 to 5 should have no more than one hour of screen time per day. In 2018, facing criticism from lawmakers and even some investors, Apple and Google added controls to their software to, theoretically, encourage people to use their devices less.

Now many experts are reframing the issue, at least temporarily, and rejecting screen shame. Last week, the World Health Organization officially encouraged people to play video games as a way to get us to stay at home. And the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended people "call, video chat, or stay connected using social media."

Those screens are doing important jobs. They're a way to keep kids distracted while parents working from home try to balance nonstop video meetings and Slack notifications. With seniors confined to their rooms for safety, nursing homes have replaced daily activities with family video calls. Shows like Netflix's top-ranked "Tiger King" are escapes to even-crazier realities.

For millions of Americans now struggling with isolation or depression, screens are a path for healing. Every day at 9 p.m., New York comedian Kelly Bachman hops on a video chat with complete strangers from around the world to read "Harry Potter" aloud. The connection is a "joyful constant," she said. "We are trying to find light in dark places as Dumbledore would."

Unsurprising to anyone sheltering in place alone or home schooling kids, Americans fortunate enough to have home broadband have never used it more. Comcast says its peak network traffic is up as much as 60% in some regions. Verizon says overall network traffic for video games is up 102%. Half of Americans think a home internet outage would be a "very big" problem right now, according to the Pew Research Center.

What we heard from most other doctors and therapists is that it's OK to have more screen time now — just try to focus on the quality kind.

"I don't want parents to beat themselves up about anything," said Nusheen Ameenuddin, a Mayo Clinic doctor and chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics council on communications and media. "These are really extraordinary, unusual circumstances and we don't expect anyone — even before COVID-19 — to follow rules one hundred percent."

No one is saying we should become couch potatoes. Sleep, fresh air and exercise improve your mental health and build your immune system. And all of the nasty problems we discovered with apps, games and social media haven't gone away, from misinformation to bullying.

But being stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic can actually give us some clarity about which uses make us feel better — and not.

"This isn't the time to say all screens are bad," said Tracy Dennis-Tiwary, a psychology professor at Hunter College in New York City. "This is the time to say, 'What am I noticing about how technology supports my well-being — and how it gets in the way?' And that's going to be different for every individual."

There are tips for a healthy balance that still resonate in the time of the coronavirus. Having any rules in place, even if they slide away, can help families cope, Ameenuddin said. Keeping devices out of the bedroom at night can help everyone sleep better.

Consider picking one day per week where you just put the phone down. Tiffany Shlain, author of the book "24/6," said her family has been unplugging for the Sabbath for a decade, and she finds the practice even more useful under stay-at-home orders where everyone's daily use of screens has skyrocketed.

"We're going through an extraordinary period in human history. And I want time to reflect," said Shlain. "I feel like I'm just on and responding and connecting all this stuff and it's too much."

GADGET WATCH

Light, portable replacement for ordinary spiral notebook

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

I've always been one to go lighter, smaller and as portable as possible. The Rocketbook Core portable reusable notebook is a nice addition to my mission.

My school years were during the pen and pencil period, so I can only imagine how handy this product would have been during that stage of my life. In these stay-at-home days, I would normally have Post-it Notes covered with chores and shopping lists everywhere, but the Rocketbook Core simplifies everything and even lets me save and upload the content in PDF or JPEG to cloud services such as Google Drive, iCloud, email and Dropbox.

To put my schoolwork theory to the test, I enlisted a college student to give the product a try.

Within a few days she gave it an A+, and especially enjoyed the cloud upload with the reusable notebook. She also pointed out that for some classes a laptop or tablet aren't needed, making the Rocketbook Core lighter and easier to tote around campus, whenever college students actually return to campuses.

At first glance, the Rocketbook Core looks like a traditional spiral notebook. Instead of paper, it makes use of patented reusable technology consisting of synthetic paper, which you write on. Once you're done, the page wipes clean with a damp cloth for the next use.

Before erasing, uploading the content is pretty simple. With the Rocketbook app on your smartphone or tablet, the pages can be scanned for the cloud storage.

Writing is done using any pen from the Pilot FriXion line of markers or highlighters.

The cost-friendly Rocketbook Core is available in letter size (8.5-by-11 inches) with 32 pages for \$34, and the executive is 6-by-8.8 inches with 36 pages for \$32. Both are also available with a dot grid pattern or lined.



ROCKETBOOK/TNS

Rocketbook Core notebooks work with Pilot FriXion markers.

You have eight choices of cover colors, a microfiber cleaning cloth and one Pilot FriXion pen is included with each.

Online: getrocketbook.com

Some smart home systems are more complex than others, but overall, most are really easy to set up to operate devices in your home. Sure, turning a light on or off manually is easy. But setting it up to do it on a schedule can go easier on your energy consumption and electric bill, and that's just one example of how smart home devices can help.

The latest smart home product I tried is the Vera Ezlo Atom smart home controller hub, part of the Vera controller family.

For the most part, the Atom looks like a flash thumb drive (1.1-by-0.4-by-2 inches) with a standard USB-A connector built on a swivel hinge. Inside the Atom is a 160 MHz 32-bit LX6 processor, with NOR 16 MB of flash memory and SRAM 520 KB of RAM. It's built with 2.4GHz Wi-Fi for connecting to your home network.

It needs to be plugged into any USB power source and, when used with the Vera mobile app, it controls smart home devices including lightbulbs, thermostats, window sensors, motion detectors, locks and more.

Setting a smart home device intimidates a lot of users, but I found the Atom as easy as can be to use. I simply downloaded the app, follow the simple setup instructions and had the Atom working to control lightbulbs in seconds. I then connected it to a few other Z-Wave security devices I already had planted in my home.

The app has a user-friendly dashboard, which lets you set up new rules for schedules, shortcuts and instant control.

I'd recommend it for first-time smart home users or for those who have existing devices and want to control them from one place. The Atom also works with smart home assistants, Alexa, Google Assistant and Apple short-cuts.

Online: [\\$29.95](http://getvera.com)

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT & FOOD

Disaster degustation

A coronavirus food and film pairing guide



'The Andromeda Strain,' from 1971, with Kraft mac and cheese and Campari soda.

1970s cheese

Movie: "The Andromeda Strain"

Based on the book by Michael Crichton, the plot revolves around an alien contagion that crash-lands to Earth aboard a satellite and turns human innards to dust. A team of scientists take to a secret underground bunker to study the rapidly multiplying organism so that they can develop a cure. It's a race against time, and a U.S. president who isn't big into science.

And it's totally worth it for the rudimentary technology, 1970s sets and Kate Reid as the lone female scientist, a sassy lady with a sensible haircut who chainsmokes and utters lines like, "I never liked red lights. It reminds me of my years in a bordello."

Food pairing: Kraft macaroni and cheese and steamed broccoli, accompanied by a glass of Campari and soda.

This pairing is all about aesthetics: the film's unnatural palette — those '70s reds, greens and oranges — begs for food and drink of an equally unnatural color. Kraft, with its nuclear shade of orange, and its undertones of milk protein concentrate, is just the sort of thing you might eat in an underground bunker. Campari adds color, as well as the bitter taste of certain annihilation.

Preparation tips: The Kraft recipe calls for 1/4 cup milk and 4 tablespoons of butter. Change that to 2 tablespoons of milk and 5 tablespoons of butter and you've got creamier mac. Refill your Campari as needed.

Eggs and a side of apocalypse

Movie: "This Is the End"

I thought the end of the world was going to be super-Mad Max. Instead, it's a tedium of Zoom video conference calls and celebrities singing "Imagine." Which is why I deeply appreciate the lowbrow humor of "This Is the End," the stoner-bro comedy directed by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, that captures the banalities and fragile egos of a pack of callow actors as they muddle through a biblical apocalyptic.

Plus, there's Emma Watson fighting off a bunch of dudes with an ax, Channing Tatum as a BDSM slave, and a cameo by the Backstreet Boys. It's the end of days — as written by People magazine.

Food pairing: Fried eggs and bacon with toast.

If the devil is about to consume your

Diner dash

Movie: "Miracle Mile"

This 1988 flick by writer-director Steve De Jarnatt features a lovely young couple, played by Anthony Edwards and Mare Winningham, who meet and fall in love at the La Brea Tar Pits — because gazing upon a drowning mammoth is just the sort of thing to bestir hot pangs of desire. Their blossoming union, however, is cut short when Edwards picks up a ringing pay phone outside of Johnnie's Coffee Shop on Fairfax, and learns that a nuclear attack is imminent. Then it becomes a race against time to get out of L.A. before the bombs hit.

The terrible haircuts and the scenes of the Miracle Mile in the '80s make this a must-see for anyone who considers themselves an Angeleno. And, of course, there's the dialogue: as riots consume Wilshire Boulevard, Winningham declares: "Hell, I'll write an article about all this for Esquire. Someone will probably make a TV movie out of it."

Or maybe a full feature film.

Food pairing: Grilled ham and cheese sandwich.

Since much of the action is set around a diner, it's only right to eat diner-y food. Pancakes, burgers and watery coffee are all good options. I went with what I had on hand: ham and American cheese, the sort of cheese that will survive any end-of-the-world scenario.

Preparation tip: In grilling your sandwich, use all the butter you can. Americans may survive a nuclear attack, but the butter definitely will not.



PHOTOS BY CAROLINA A. MIRANDA/Los Angeles Times

Grilled cheese and ham and a dazed Anthony Edwards in "Miracle Mile."



Bacon, eggs and Seth Rogen in gross-out apocalypse flick "This Is the End."

soul, you might as well eat all your protein in one go — like the unrepentant Danny McBride, in a key scene in the movie.

Preparation tip: Fry the eggs in the bacon grease. We can't see your too-tight pants on Zoom. Hell, we can't tell if you're wearing pants at all.

By CAROLINA A. MIRANDA

Los Angeles Times

I've twisted myself into a yoga pretzel on Zoom. I've downloaded the meditation apps. I've watched koala bear naps on the San Diego Zoo's koala cam. (OMG, the baby!) All of it has helped soothe my simmering coronanxiety to some degree, though none quite as much as streaming a film festival's worth of disaster flicks and diving into a pile of snacks.

"Armageddon," "The Towering Inferno," "San Andreas," "28 Days Later." If it in

some way features the end of humanity — or a piece of humanity — I will watch it. And I will find it relaxing. Mainly because nothing makes me feel better about my station in life than knowing that at least a bunch of zombies aren't gnawing at my dangling entrails.

Naturally, whenever I watch, I always — always — prepare a plate, since impending doom builds an appetite. Here, I include five very simple dishes that can be made from just about any stock of disaster rations and pair them with five of my favorite disaster films.



Alexis Diaz de Villegas as Juan in "Juan de los Muertos," with a classic Cuban meal.

A lo cubano

Movie: "Juan de los Muertos" (Juan of the Dead)

In this humorous 2011 political allegory by director Alejandro Brugués, a group of rum-drinking Havana slackers face off against an army of the undead — flesh eaters they initially confuse for dissidents. Alexis Diaz de Villegas plays Juan, a veteran of the Cuban intervention in Angola who makes an under-the-table business out of dispatching zombies with a variety of implements, including an oar.

Food pairing: Oven-roasted chicken with rice and beans and tostones.

A Cuban movie calls for Cuban food, a cuisine that knows how to make a lot out of a few basic staples: rice, beans, chicken. But the critical part are the tostones: green plantains that you fry twice.

Preparation tips: Slice a green plantain into 1-inch-thick diagonal wedges. In a broad frying pan, heat enough vegetable oil to cover the bottom of the pan over medium heat. Fry the banana slices lightly on each side — about three to four minutes total — and remove them when they start to soften and change color. Drain on a paper towel.

Then comes the smashing. Cut a couple of large squares out of a brown paper grocery bag. Place a piece of banana between them and use the palm of your hand to press them to about a 1/2-inch width. Fry for about 3 to 4 more minutes at medium heat, turning the bananas until they are golden and crisp. Salt to taste.

Instant soup's on

Movie: "Flu"

When it comes to flu flicks, I am incredibly partial to South Korean director Sung-su Kim's 2013 thriller, which features all the right teeth-gritting plot lines: a fast-moving, fatal virus and a single-mom doctor who is laboring to find a cure — in a race against time and an official from the World Health Organization with an itchy trigger finger.

Food pairing: Nongshim instant ramen.

It may seem glib to suggest Korean instant ramen for a Korean movie, but it's a match made in disaster heaven. Because, Nongshim instant ramen is featured in a scene that takes place inside a quarantine camp. Also, because Nongshim ramen is good. Two of my preferred flavors are Spicy Seafood Ramyun and the Shin Ramyun Noodle Soup in Gourmet Spicy flavor.



Nongshim instant ramen paired with the 2013 film "The Flu," starring Hyuk Jang.

Preparation tips: Prepare as directed, then add whatever toppings you can scrounge up. My favorites include canned or frozen corn (we're in a pandemic; a pot of butter), mushrooms, an egg and a pat of butter. Scallions, chopped cilantro and leftover bits of chicken or beef are also great.

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Challenge accepted!

So you want to be a gamer?
Here's why right now is a
good time to get started

BY GENE PARK
The Washington Post

Even though more than 67 percent of Americans play video games (according to research company EEDAR), becoming a gamer can seem like a difficult challenge. The range of consoles, peripherals and titles can feel like an insurmountable obstacle to figuring out just where to begin.

But despite how steep the learning curve may appear (and how many buttons are on the newer controllers), gaming is actually easier to get into today than it ever has been. Developers are keen on expanding their audience, and many deliberately design games to make them more accessible to new players. Moreover, the wide range of titles means there's pretty much a fun game for everyone. Small developers (indies) have stepped up to fill in voids as multi-million "AAA" studios focus on keeping the mass audience of experienced gamers.

"There's so many more potential ways today to get started and to find the game that is exactly what you want, compared to before where you were looking for different flavors of graphics-heavy action games," said researcher Nick Yee, founder of consulting firm Quantic Foundry.

Yee has consulted with many developers on tailoring their games to specific audiences, creating a chart of "gamer motivations" to help. It's not enough that someone wants a strategy or a farming game, Yee says. What matters is how that gamer feels, and whether their experience is enough to keep them going. Quantic Foundry offers a free five-minute survey for anyone who wants to find out their motivation for gaming (or life in general). Are you competitive? Do you feel rewarded through achievement? Do you want to be immersed and get lost in a story and fantasy world? Or do you just want to meet new people? Yee likens shopping for video games to finding the right perfume scent.

"You can say, 'I like the smell of this perfume,' but unless you understand perfume notes and the way they interact, it's hard to describe what you want to a salesperson," Yee said. "That's the same situation with games. Showing the table to people is helpful because it grounds them in the framework of games, and the vocabulary."

If you're interested in exploring the gaming world, one of the best places to start is by taking the survey for gamer motivations. Armed with that vocabulary, you'll be about as ready as you'll ever be to dive in. To get you closer to that starting line, here are our intro-level recommendations on where to begin.

Consider buying a Nintendo Switch (or another console)

If you're new to gaming, there are three great options for beginners, and chances are you already own one or two of them: a smartphone or PC. To expand your options, we recommend getting a Nintendo Switch.

Games made in house by Nintendo (called "first-party" games, as opposed to other "third-party" studios) are very deliberately and laboriously designed to appeal to players of all levels. It's been Nintendo's mission since the 1980s to design games and hardware that expands the gaming audience.

If you're someone who hasn't touched a video game

since the Mario or Tetris days, you'll be pleased to know that the newer versions of those games are even more inviting than ever before, and most, if not all, of them are on the Switch. And for a \$20 Nintendo Online subscription, you can play old Nintendo and Super Nintendo games via a free app on the Switch. Check to see if your favorites are already available.

When it comes to choosing the regular Switch or the Switch Lite, we're going to recommend the regular Switch outright. The Lite is great if you're going to play alone, but gives you little-to-no options to play with your family or friends.

The case for the PS4

If you're looking for a more powerful console, the PlayStation 4 or Xbox One are the two to consider. They're a bit more intimidating than a Switch, but they boast a bigger game library, particularly for people looking for a graphically beautiful game with a rich story or competitive multiplayer game.

To that end, we recommend the PlayStation 4, which boasts a better library of exclusives, including "God of War" and the "Uncharted" series. Those games aren't the most friendly for beginners, but they set the bar for quality.

The one wrinkle with both the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One: Sony and Microsoft (the respective makers of both consoles) assist their next-generation consoles (PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X) are still being released later this year. But as you all know, it's a long year.

Here's our advice: Just buy the console you want now. Nintendo isn't going to be updating its stable anything this year, and the PlayStation 4 library is so robust, you'll have more than enough entertainment for years. New gamers won't need a PlayStation 5, and even if you want to upgrade, Sony says most (but not all) of its games for PS4 will play on the PS5.

The Xbox One S is a tougher proposition, since it has a weaker library. But the titles are often on sale for cheap. Moreover, the console makes a decent TV box top for your living space, allowing you to use it as a hub for your cable in addition to your streaming apps.

Making the most of mobile gaming

If you have an iOS or Android device, you already have the most popular gaming platform. Even if you have an iPhone 6 or older iPad, you've got a perfectly capable gaming device.

The only thing you might consider getting is a controller. You can game using the touch screen controls, but for more complicated, engaging games like the ones we'll recommend, you should consider either the Xbox One controller or the cheaper PlayStation DualShock 4. Both pair perfectly well via Bluetooth with either smartphone system, and it's a cheap way to get a console-like experience. If you opt for an Xbox One controller, make sure it's a recent one with Bluetooth support.

It's probably best to avoid PCs for now

If you have a PC running Windows, check your system specifications, and then check the PC requirements for your chosen game. But given all the variables and complications that go into PC setups (consistently changing hardware requirements for new games, driver updates, etc.), we can't recommend PC gaming until you get your feet wet otherwise. Consoles are (usually) cheaper than most gaming PCs, and are definitely simpler to use and maintain.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

FROM PAGE 18

Now we're going to recommend a few games based off categories of Yee's motivations. These aren't all the newest games, but they're popular, acclaimed titles mostly designed to minimize any prohibitive learning curves.

Social/community

Video games offer opportunities to make new friends. Contrary to popular stereotypes, many gamer communities are often welcoming and eager to help you ease your way into a game's systems and rules. We recommend you find a forum or message board (such as Resetera), Facebook Group or Reddit subreddit that focuses entirely on your game of choice. (This advice holds for every category, by the way.)

Don't ask questions under YouTube videos or any other generalized forum like Twitter. It's a waste of time. It's important that you find communities that are specifically focused on your game of choice. That's where you'll find the best information.

It's also important to note that most gaming platforms have a voice chat feature. Each game and console have their own rules, so Google is your best friend in tracking those down. But if you want to keep things quiet and reduce trolling to zero, muting everyone is your best bet.

Minecraft (iOS/Android, all consoles, Windows): There's probably no better "modern game as training wheels." It's

history's most popular game for several reasons. It's incredibly easy to run on any device, including just about any PC. It's Oregon Trail for the 21st century. And most importantly, it gives new players a low-stakes, low-stress environment to get used to moving in a 3-D space. Once you're acclimated to Minecraft, you could graduate to other games. Or you could join millions of others on already-created servers to keep playing and find your community.

Sky (iOS): An award-winning indie developer, thatgamecompany is known for making belated, easy-to-play games that are meant to stir universal emotions like curiosity and wonder. Sky is an online multiplayer game that enables only encouraging or helpful actions — actions which can be ignored, if you so choose. Cooperative play only makes an easygoing game even easier, which is in itself a reward, if only because it makes it easier to absorb the gorgeous sights and sounds. People of all ages play this, and it's a great game to share with family. And because it has no enemies, no time limit and no pressure, it's a great way to get used to 3D movement.

Mastery/strategy/decision-making

Consider these games if you're a person who thinks in the long term. This type of gamer might keep a cool head to think clearly and plan ahead, finding fulfillment not just in making decisions, but seeing the results play out.

Tetris 99 (Nintendo Switch): It's mostly the game you remember, and it's free. You do play by yourself for the most part, but there is a competitive twist. You're also competing with 98 other players to see how long you can keep your screen free of blocks. It's another layer of pressure, but Tetris has never been an easygoing game. It gives you a taste of online competition in a game where almost anyone can immediately grasp the rules.

Untitled Goose Game (all consoles, Windows/Macintosh): The indie darling of 2019 is a simple, two-button game of getting a goose through a town and making mischief. You do this by interacting with the environment. The first task, for example, is as simple as opening a farm gate. Your next task is a variety, including moving certain objects around to something more complicated like distracting the farmer so you could run past him. Untitled Goose Game is an excellent teacher of how to pick out important visual cues you can interact with in gaming.

Portal 2 (Windows/Macintosh): This might seem like the most advanced game so far, but mechanically it's very simple, and like Minecraft is a great way to acclimate to 3D, first-person movement. The goal of Portal is to simply get from one side of the room to the other, all while using a special gun that shoots two portals for you to travel through. Portal 2 also tells a hilarious story with award-winning dialogue. But most importantly, it's a very engaging introduction to how video game physics can work, how objects interact and bounce off the environment and yourself.

Achievement/power growth

You don't just love collecting and competition, you want it all and you want to be the best. This is a great category for perfectionists and overachievers.

Pokemon Let's Go Pikachu/Let's Go Eevee (Nintendo Switch): At their core, Pokemon games are simply "rock, paper, scissors" with a few more rules. Water Pokemon beats fire Pokemon, fire Pokemon burns grass, grass defeats water, and so on. There are more variations of this, but it rarely gets more complicated. Plus, the Pokemon story might feed your competitive spirit since the games are all about "catching them all" and advancing as a Pokemon trainer. While Pokemon Sword and Shield are the newer games, the Let's Go titles of 2018 are remakes of the '90s originals, which introduced an entire generation to the role-playing game concept. There's no better place to start.

Mario Kart 8 Deluxe (Nintendo Switch): Even if you have a driver's license, it's sometimes tough to stay on the road in racing games. The latest Mario Kart on the Switch fixes this by offering "Smart Steering," which ensures you never fall or hit the sides of the road. This feature is the perfect training wheels system to get you started on competitive racing games. Start with

Mario Kart, and eventually you can work your way up to more robust driving games like the Gran Turismo or Forza Horizon series, which offer endless amounts of cars and upgrades.

Diablo 3 (all consoles, Windows): While Pokemon is on the easy side of the RPG spectrum, the Diablo series is a little more involving and action intensive. But the third installment from 2012 is extremely affordable today, and its movement isn't much more complicated than the original Zelda games. Sure, the system to "level up" might be a bit more complicated than Pokemon, but it's a great introduction to understanding the quest for more powerful, more attractive "loot" in games.

Story/immersion

You want to become someone else, feel as if you're somewhere else. For you, the narrative, the characters and plot are what keeps you interested and playing. Like watching a great HBO show, you can't wait to see what happens next.

Journey (iOS, PlayStation 4, PC): Also made by thatgamecompany, Journey is an arresting adventure meant to emphasize the smallness of our existence, and the wonder and curiosity that comes with living in a large, scary world. Like Sky, it's a game primarily about moving through beautiful environments. Journey is often a game cited whenever anyone questions the artistic merits of a video game story. It's also another great introduction to understanding visual cues, as the game relies on your own curiosity to explore.

The Walking Dead, Season 1 (iOS/Android, all consoles, Windows/MacOS): The Walking Dead game is often considered a better written story than its namesake TV show. You play as a felon who takes a little girl under his wing to survive the zombie apocalypse. The game introduces many things to new players, including visual cues and some limited navigation (which makes it easier), but the most important thing is that it forces players to make decisions that impact how the story plays out in dramatically different ways.

Playing on a touch screen with your phone or tablet might actually be the ideal way, since many of the game's actions require simple button presses.

Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney (iOS/Android, all consoles, Windows): Phoenix Wright is credited as popularizing the "visual novel" format of gaming in the West. You play as a green criminal defense lawyer in his early 20s. It's part murder-mystery, part court procedural drama. You simply choose what to say, and you use logic to provide evidence in court, which is all great training for more complex role-playing games. While the gameplay is simple, the story isn't. You won't want to stop until you can rest your case.

Creativity/discovery

Do you call yourself a creative? This is your category. Each of these games offer literally millions of ways to express yourself through art, fashion and personality.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons

(Nintendo Switch): It's the "it" game of the current pandemic, and for good reason. The game is simple in how it controls and simulates a busy day of errands and work. The game's objectives are as simple as "collecting fruit" or "chopping down trees," largely done with just two buttons. But the real reward is customizing your town (or in this case, island) and character. There's a lot of freedom to tailor the appearances of buildings, streets, environments and your own home to your exact aesthetic.

The Sims (PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows/MacOS): If you want a life simulator more grounded in reality, The Sims series has been an introduction to gaming for the past two decades. It's a life simulator, job simulator and home builder all in one, all free of any prohibitive mechanics. And the topsy-turvy nature is easy to grasp since it deals with modern day-to-day issues like getting a job, filling out your fridge, going to yoga or even raising a family.

Action/excitement

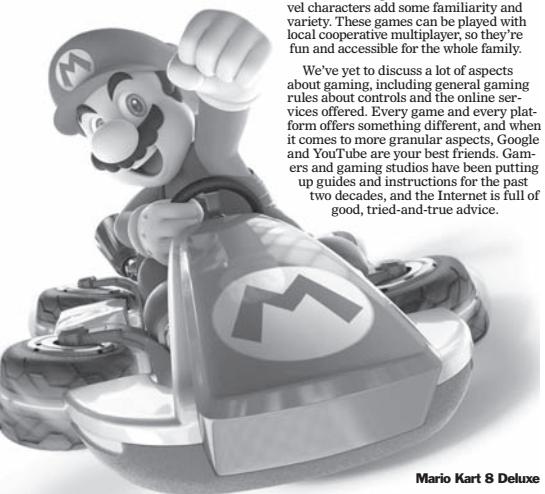
This is the stereotypical video game genre. You want to be thrilled, and you want something more fast-paced, with just a little bit of mayhem in the mix. These are probably the hardest types of games for beginners, but there are still plenty of options to ease your way in.

New Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe

(Nintendo Switch): It's the same 2D Mario game you know and love, and it's one of the best ever made. Better yet, you can play through the game as two characters (Toadette and Nabbit) designed for inexperienced players. Both make the game significantly easier, with Nabbit being all but invincible. Last century, Mario games trained the world on how to navigate a 2D game sure it stays that way.

LEGO Marvel Super Heroes (iOS/Android, all consoles, Windows/MacOS): The LEGO brand action games are perfect for inexperienced players, since there's no real way to lose in them. If your LEGO Spider-Man "dies," he just simply pops back in and you can keep going. Any Lego-branded action game will do, but the Marvel characters add some family dimension and variety. These games can be played with local cooperative multiplayer, so they're fun and accessible for the whole family.

We've yet to discuss a lot of aspects about gaming, including general gaming rules about controls and the online services offered. Every game and every platform offers something different, and when it comes to the greater aspects, Google and YouTube are your best friends. Gamers and gaming studios have been putting up guides and instructions for the past two decades, and the Internet is full of good, tried-and-true advice.



Mario Kart 8 Deluxe

Nintendo

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



In Resident Evil 3, the 1999 survival horror classic has been reimagined with cutting-edge graphics and gameplay.

Capcom photos



Battling the undead — again

RE3: Superb graphics, good level design, but it's still the zombie apocalypse

By CHRISTOPHER BYRD
Special to The Washington Post

I'm typically numb to the cultural fixation with zombies. One can see only so many instances of brain munching and exposed entrails before the power to shock begins to dim. That said, when the Resident Evil series is at its best I can ignore how cliché the whole zombie-killing enterprise is.

Capcom has recently been on a remake kick. The recent release of Resident Evil 3 comes a little more than a year after the release of its numerical predecessor. Surprisingly, I've found it to be my favorite of the past three games because of its brisk pacing and the ways in which it varies the tempo of the action.

Resident Evil 3 wastes no time establishing its zombie apocalypse scenario. At the start, special agent Jill Valentine, who works for the Raccoon City police department, awakens from a zombie-tinted nightmare only to find herself terrorized by a monstrous assassin

sin — a hulking "bioweapon," code-named Nemesis, who is dedicated to exterminating any member of the Special Tactics and Rescue Service (S.T.A.R.S.). Following a frantic escape from her apartment, Jill finds herself on the zombie-overrun streets of Raccoon City where she eventually runs into Carlos Oliveira, a mercenary who works for the Umbrella Corporation.

Carlos' employer was responsible for the manufacture of the biological agent that turns people into zombies. Carlos, however, is a genial dupe who understands his mission to be a humanitarian one. Although Jill takes an initial dislike to him, the two work together to try to restore Raccoon City's subway system to help evacuate civilians.

Players alternate between Jill and Carlos over the length of the campaign. Jill's section hews closer to the survival horror template of Resident Evil 2. For most of the first half of the game, Jill must rely on a handgun and shotgun to put down the various types of hellish creatures that cross her path. On the

standard difficulty level, ammo isn't plentiful but it isn't vexingly scarce either. Enemy placement and resources are carefully distributed throughout the map to tease players with the possibility that they might run out of ammo. By contrast, Carlos' section is more action-oriented. Because he's armed with an assault rifle, the developers can throw more foes in his direction. Save for an intense shootout at a hospital, Carlos' missions feel more forgiving.

Progress unfolds by scurrying back and forth across levels, finding an item here that can be used over there. Much of the game's tension arises from the dread of wondering if you'll make it back to a save point with the item you need to open another branch of the map. I appreciate how well the level design works to play off the sense of frustration that comes from smacking into locked doors, and the corresponding delight that comes from finally opening them. The intricate level design is purpose-built for generating waves of tension.

One of my problems with most horror games is that repeated encounters with the same enemy types diminish their possibility to unnerve. On this score, Resident Evil 3 does a decent job of introducing new enemies and presenting different variations of Jill's arch foe, Nemesis. Though I can't say I found the game to be that scary, I did hope that the game's monstrous bugs, which like to jump on people and inject a colony of parasitical maggots down their throats, wouldn't crop up in my dreams.

The true star of Resident Evil 3, though, is the superb RE graphics engine, which debuted in 2017's Resident Evil 7: Biohazard. Environments in the game are dramatically lit and brimming with details. As I made my way through the campaign, I couldn't help but wonder how the engine will scale after the release of the next-generation consoles. Parts of the game, such as the opening in Jill's apartment, look positively cinematic — so textured and atmospheric that one can almost imagine video games drawing near the end of the uncanny valley in our lifetimes. If and when that should occur, I hope that Capcom will have found another horror template than zombies.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, Xbox One

Online: residentevil.com/re3



WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Getting back to normal

Is a second wave of infections avoidable?

By JOHN WOOLFOLK
The Mercury News

Our unprecedented stay-home orders to check the deadly coronavirus' spread are showing signs of success, but they can't last forever, and health officials are scrambling to figure out when and how they might ease the restrictions without unleashing a surge of new infections.

When they let us go out again, will we still be expected to wear masks? Will they be checking our temperatures at schools or our COVID-19 status to enter restaurants, stores and workplaces? Will there still be sneeze shields and six-foot spacing markers at the grocery checkpoints?

Health officials in California's Bay Area are just starting to build consensus around what sorts of benchmarks might signal it's safe to begin lifting rigid social-distancing restrictions and how to go about it. They are keeping an eye overseas, as China just lifted its strict quarantine of Wuhan, the city where the outbreak originated, after 76 days.

"There's a lot to consider if we're going to make this work and not fall backwards and have to do this all over again," said former California Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith, who has been a lead adviser to Santa Clara County's health officer. "As far as I know, nobody has a plan. A lot of people have ideas."

Since the Bay Area announced the nation's first stay-home orders March 16 — and Gov. Gavin Newsom soon followed with a similar statewide decree — the rate of new infections has slowed, a sign of what epidemiologists call "flattening the curve" of new cases. But the virus has ravaged states that acted later, like New York. Now, whether the Bay Area leads the way in reversing the lockdown remains to be seen. Local officials and Newsom have made clear it won't happen soon.

"We're working really hard thinking about what would the signals be in order to relax a little bit," Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said. "It's going to take a while to figure that out."

Only a few things will truly end the COVID-19 pandemic that has sickened more than 1.6 million people and killed more than 97,000 worldwide: an effective cure for the disease, a vaccine to shield people from it, or enough people catching it to build up "herd immunity" in the population. None of those are close.

"The timelines tend to be longer than we'd like," said Dr. Stephen Luby, an epidemiologist and professor of medicine at Stanford University who is researching vaccines. "There's only one time a vaccine was developed fast enough to interrupt an outbreak, and that was in Hollywood in the movie 'Contagion.'"

Only about 0.14% of the U.S. population is confirmed so far to have caught the disease, and although more people likely have been infected than tested, it is assumed the vast majority of people remain at risk of the illness when restrictions lift.

Health experts expect that any lifting of restrictions will unleash new waves of infections. That just happened in Singapore, a city-state whose early social distancing



and aggressive testing and case monitoring were hailed as a model for containing the outbreak. It has since ordered schools and nonessential workplaces to close temporarily.

"One thing we know is when we start backing off of social distancing," Smith said, "there will be new transmissions because they will occur."

The key, Smith said, is to get to a point where the health system can effectively manage new spikes in cases without having to reimpose widespread lockdowns.

One key that epidemiologists agree will be needed is far more extensive testing to identify who has already been infected and when people become sick so they can be isolated and others who have come in contact with

"The timelines tend to be longer than we'd like. There's only one time a vaccine was developed fast enough to interrupt an outbreak, and that was in Hollywood in the movie 'Contagion.'"

Dr. Stephen Luby
Epidemiologist and professor of medicine at Stanford University

them can be tracked down and monitored. A "roadmap to reopening" by the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank, said we'll need the capability to test 750,000 people a week. There have been 2.4 million tested in the U.S. to date, according to the COVID Tracking project.

Aggressive testing, tracing and monitoring of people who were in contact with the infected is what helped Asian countries hit earlier in the outbreak tamp down infection rates and limit public restrictions.

Before we get to that next phase, Smith said that local officials will be looking to see that new hospitalization admissions — which they consider a more reliable indicator of both the extent and impact of infections — subside for at least two weeks to a level where hospitals have the capacity to handle new case clusters. That will vary from place to place.

"We want to first and foremost be sure to have adequate hospital capacity," Smith said. "And we have to

test. We won't find cases if we're not testing and able to identify outbreaks."

Widespread availability of tests that could confirm that someone has unknowingly been infected and recovered from the disease — many get only mild symptoms more like a cold or influenza and don't get tested — will also be helpful.

"...you're immune, you can go back to work," Luby said. "Maybe that's who you can have as a front line health worker, a waiter at your table. We're not there, but that's much sooner, likely in weeks or months."

Luby said it would make sense to start lifting restrictions for people by age group because the disease hits harder with age.

"We are going to have to go back to work — the first thing we could do is let young people go back," Luby said. "The data are so clear it is older people who are more at risk."

That, too, would come with a major trade-off: Infected people without symptoms are still capable of spreading the virus.

Smith envisions a gradual reversal of the stay-home orders, likely starting at the statewide level and then regionally as local health officials gain confidence that sustained levels of new cases have dropped to a level where they can handle a new cluster of infections.

"Each community is going to have to respond to their local conditions," said Smith, who expects the Bay Area to act together as one community.

Shelter-in-place will gradually give way to allowing more types of businesses to open and permission for progressively larger public gatherings, with concerts, parades and sporting events the last to come back, Smith said.

Experts envision repeated, smaller infection spikes along the way.

"It will come in waves, maybe three waves, four waves," said Dr. Robyn Gershon, clinical professor at New York University School of Global Public Health.

And many of the markers of life with the coronavirus — keeping six feet apart from each other, wearing face masks in public — are likely to continue as restrictions ease. "I think

people will get used to masking in public," Smith said.

With health departments already stretched thin, they will need help to effectively monitor the newly infected and their close contacts when restrictions lift, Smith said. Health officials are looking at increasing staffing, perhaps with trained volunteers to do case monitoring, and using technology like cellphone applications to help.

The technology wouldn't be used to enforce restrictions like in China and some other Asian countries, Smith said, but more as a means of staying in contact with the infected or exposed.

"We just want to be continuously in contact with people, find out each day how they're doing, what symptoms they have," Smith said.

But while health officials are wary of removing restrictions too soon, they also worry the public will lose patience.

"The longer this goes on," Smith said, "the harder it is to tell people you have to keep interrupting your life."

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Constance comments

There's much to see, say about lovely lake bordering 3 countries

The beautiful Bodensee — or Lake Constance as it's known to speakers of English — laps the borders of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Central Europe's third-largest lake is also Europe's biggest drinking-water reservoir, supplying more than four million households on a daily basis. Lake Constance is made up of three distinct bodies of water: the larger eastern section, known as the Obersee; the much smaller Untersee to the west; and the Seerhein, the 2.5-mile stretch of the Rhine connecting the two.

Many out-of-the-ordinary experiences await a traveler to this stunning part of the world. Unfortunately, most of these remain inaccessible for the moment. Until such time as museums and attractions are again up and running, the links provided to virtual experiences will help you to get to gain a feel for them.

Our journey begins in the German city of Konstanz, on the lake's northwestern shore, and takes us clockwise.

Konstanz's best asset must be its proximity to the lake. Start your tour in the harbor, where photo ops in front of the impressive Imperia statue await. This statue commemorates the Council of Constance, held by the Roman Catholic Church from 1414 to 1418 to resolve the schism that had left the church with three popes instead of one. And yes, she did just move. The 30-foot high statue rotates around her axis every four minutes.

Our next stop is Mainau, nicknamed the "Flower Island." This private, family-owned island closed to motorized vehicles brims with flowers, plants and trees that stage a hot horticultural show during the warm months of the year. First, tulips and rhododendrons spring like hope eternal, followed by a sea of roses. In autumn, the dahlias take their final bows. Sequoia trees, a Teutonic castle and the St. Marien church can be enjoyed whatever the season. The butterfly house is a highlight for all ages, while kids will enjoy the adventure playgrounds. Admission costs 12 euros for adults while kids 12 and under are free; to escape the worst of the crowds, enter after 5 p.m., when tickets go for half price. See mainau.de or visit virtually via the Insel Mainau channel on YouTube.

By means of the Konstanz-Meersburg ferry, we set sail to



Karen Bradbury

Year-round fun

Once the world returns to relative normalcy and regular events resume, annual highlights of the Lake Constance area include the vast cross-border flea market in Konstanz, Germany, and Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, in late June; the Seenachtfest, an open-air festival crowned with fireworks, in Konstanz in early August; a Middle Ages Market in Meersburg in early October and the Harbor Christmas market in Lindau, held right by the waterfront and overlooked by snow-capped Alpine peaks.

the opposite shore of the lake to visit the Pfahlbauten (Pile Dwellings) Museum in Unteruhldingen. This UNESCO-listed site shows us 23 reconstructed dwellings of Stone and Bronze Age societies, who lived an ecologically sustainable lifestyle in harmony with their great lake between 4000 and 850 B.C. By building their dwellings on stilts, they protected themselves from flooding while remaining close to the rich fishing grounds that helped to sustain them. The archaeological open-air museum can only be explored by means of a guided tour led in German, but info boards in English help decipher the experience. Adult entry costs 10 euros, ages 5-15 pay 5 euros, and ages 4 and under enter free. For a virtual tour, see pfahlbauten.de/museum/virtual-rundgang.html.

Just down the road and slightly inland, Affenberg Salem affords visitors the chance to edge up close to roughly 200 Barbary Apes. Their habitat here is similar to that of the species' original home in northern Africa. In May, the sight of the baby macaques will melt your heart. Other animals to see at close range include storks and fallow deer. Adult entry costs 9 euros, ages 6-15 pay 6 euros, and ages 5 and



Above: In Bregenz, a stage on the lake is prepared for Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*. If the opera goes on, its dates are scheduled for July 23-Aug. 23.

under enter free. Follow adorable animal antics on the Affenberg Salem channel on YouTube.

For a charming town with unique flair, call in to nearby Meersburg. After walking its steep cobblestone streets, drop in for lunch or dinner at one of the restaurants serving freshly-caught fish from the lake. While eel, pike, perch or zander all make good choices, the Felchen, a whiting from the salmon family, is a Lake Constance specialty. Wash it down with a nicely chilled Mueller-Thurgau, the local white wine.

Heading east along the shore, we reach Friedrichshafen, from which our Zeppelin flight departs. From the birthplace of the airship first launched more than a century ago, passengers ascend to a height of roughly 1,000 feet, from which they can watch the world going by far below at the relaxed speed of just over 40 miles per hour. Various routes are available, a 30-minute flight costs 255 euros. Book at zeppelin-ndt.de.

Continuing south and crossing into Austria, we reach Bregenz. Here, for one very special month of the year, you can experience opera performed on the Seebühne, a giant stage set directly upon the lake. In 2020, Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto* opera was to have its second season. The stage set featuring a gigantic clown head and his two detached hands, one of which clutches a helium balloon, looks pretty spectacular. A few tickets to performances during the July 23-Aug. 23 season remain; prices begin at 50 euros, but most likely you'll only find seats going for well in excess of 100 euros. That is, of course, if the show does go on. Online: bregenzerfestspiele.com.

For our last stop on our three-country tour, we're skipping clear across the lake to the charming medieval town of Stein am Rhein. This Swiss beauty fascinates with a street plan that's remained intact for centuries and its pedestrianized inner core, the perfect place from which to gaze up at the astonishingly pretty and detailed frescoes painted upon the houses. Once you see them, you'll understand why this town is often voted one of the most beautiful in Switzerland.



A giant peacock made of flowers greets visitors on Mainau, the so-called "Flower Island" on Lake Constance, or the Bodensee.



Centuries-old Meersburg Castle remains in excellent condition. Its restored rooms are full of artifacts of daily life from long ago.



Stars and Stripes
The Swiss town of Stein am Rhein dates back to the 15th century and is famous for the picturesque murals that decorate the houses.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



Shady trees line the path of the Rheinsteig trail in Eltville, Germany, near the banks of the Rhine River.

PHOTOS BY DAVID EDGE/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The trail can be accessed from many locations. To reach the Eltville portion from Wiesbaden, take the A66 ramp toward Rüdesheim/Bingen for 12 km until you see the Eltville exit. Turn right onto Hauptstrasse and follow for 200 meters, then take the third exit at the round-about. After 1.5 km, turn right onto Wiesweg and follow to a dead end at the Rheinsteig.

— David Edge



A vineyard along the Rheinsteig in Eltville, Germany. The hiking trail runs along the east banks of the Rhine River.



A farmhouse on the Rheinsteig trail, which stretches about 200 miles along the Rhine, from Bonn to Wiesbaden.

A little outdoor therapy

Head to the Rheinsteig trail for a refreshing cure for cabin fever

BY DAVID EDGE
Stars and Stripes

While many of the attractions near Wiesbaden remain closed due to the coronavirus, it remains a great jumping-off point for spring hiking.

Just a quick 25-minute drive from Hainerberg is the Rheinsteig hiking trail, which runs along the banks of the east Rhine River. The trail route stretches 200 miles from Bonn to Wiesbaden.

There are 21 stages of the Rheinsteig that offer hikers a wide range of views and experiences. The trails run through hillside forest, narrow valleys, up mountains, through vineyards and along the river itself, which provides a cool respite on a hot day.

I chose to hike the part of the Rheinsteig that's on the hillside near my home.

Once I arrived at my starting point, I was immediately struck by how vividly green the forest is this time of year. As I followed the trail deeper, I noticed a babbling brook that ran beside the trail. It

reminded me of my days as a wild child, running and playing in the woods in Maryland.

About two miles into my hike, the forest opened into a clear view of a vineyard. During my five-mile roundtrip, there were a few other hikers, but for the most part it was just me and nature.

Another popular route includes the Baroque-style Biebrich Palace in Wiesbaden. From Wiesbaden-Biebrich train station, follow the path leading to the Rheinsteig to the castle grounds, which takes about 30 minutes.

For hardy hikers, a 10-mile trek will then take you through the Frauenstein vineyard district, give you a view of two castles and into the Erlbach Valley, where an ascent to the Monstrazenbaum, or "monster tree" in English, awaits after a moderate ascent.

This trail is one of Germany's most scenic and beautiful trails. If you're going a little stir crazy, it might just help.

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A babbling brook on the Rheinsteig trail in Eltville, Germany.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

A Buronburger from Neil's Pub in Mackenbach, Germany, available for takeout in the evenings from Tuesday through Saturday, comes with two beef patties and generous toppings.

Pub grub at home

Neil's Pub in Mackenbach is open for takeout

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The former Mack Du's on the east side of Ramstein Air Base in Mackenbach is now Neil's Pub, but customers might not have noticed the name change.

Current owner Neil Burton and his family had planned a party for the end of March to celebrate the new name and the one-year anniversary since taking over the pub, but the coronavirus hit.

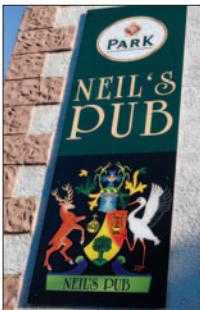
The party was put on hold, but a new sign is up while Burton keeps the pub open for a few hours each evening for takeout.

"We almost made it to the one-year anniversary," Burton said, while working the takeout window at the back of the pub on a recent weekday night.

"It's been tough," he said of the restrictions imposed on restaurants as a result of the virus, "and I don't know when this will finish."

Despite the limitations, pub fare works well as takeout and the restaurant is still able to offer a full menu, including its lineup of hearty burgers with their own names: the Mackenburger, the Burtonburger and the Brexitburger.

You can't go wrong with any of these, as long as you're pretty hungry. The Mackenburger has beef, bacon, jalapenos, onion, pickles, tomato, mozzarella,



Neil's Pub is the new name for the former Mack Du's in Mackenbach, Germany. Neil Burton and his family took over the pub about a year ago.

cheese and a special sauce, while the Burton packs two beef patties, English cheddar and pepper jack cheese, bacon and a spicy sauce.

The Brexit takes it to the next level, with a beef patty and crispy chicken, along with all the fixings and a British brown sauce.

On a recent weekday when there was no time to cook due to teleworking and online school, my kids and I picked up a cheeseburger, similar to the

Mackenburger but with American cheese; the Mackenburger; and the crispy chicken burger, a fried fillet of chicken breast with pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onions and spicy ranch dressing.

We devoured all three, as well as the fries we ordered as sides. The Brexitburger comes with onion rings. There's also a schnitzel burger, with pork, of course, and pizza.

The pub also this month brought back its salads, including the crispy chicken, Italian and Neil's salad — the last includes ham, gouda and feta cheeses, jalapeno and a house ranch. The restaurant also offers various specials for takeout, such as pasta with homemade spicy bell pepper and cheese sauce.

Some of the pub's English ciders, such as Thatchers Katy, can be purchased by the bottle at the takeout window.

Burton said he's looking forward to opening the pub up again, whenever that time comes. Inside, the bar and tables are empty, and no one's used the jukebox, pool table and darts for some time. The restaurant hosts occasional whisky tastings — Burton says he has about 16 different Scottish whisky varieties — and he hopes to have them again, along with a gin-tasting night and special events in the beer garden he's improved.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown



A customer picks up an order from the takeout window. Neil's Pub offers hamburgers, pizza, salads and specials for takeout in the evening from Tuesday to Saturday.

NEIL'S PUB

Location: Hauptstrasse 18, Mackenbach 67686
Hours: Takeout only from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, due to coronavirus restrictions

Prices: Burgers start at 5.0 euros; fries are an extra 2.50 euros. Larger burgers, such as the Brexitburger and Burtonburger, are 11 euros and 9 euros, respectively. The price of the Brexitburger includes onion rings. Small pizzas are 6.50 euros, large pizzas are 8 euros. Salads start at 8 euros.

English menu: Yes

Clients: Germans and Americans

Information: To place an order, call or WhatsApp at 0176-8777-6702. For PayPal, use burt2@sky.com; contactless cash payments are available. On Facebook, search for Neil's Pub.

— Jennifer H. Svan



Thatchers Katy cider is among the refreshing English ciders and other drinks available by the bottle for takeout.

What will travel look like after COVID-19?

Industry leaders are presaging that the face of the travel industry, as well as the ways in which people choose to travel, will be forever changed once we've reached the other side of the COVID-19 health crisis.

Opinions and forecasts cite several, sometimes disparate, sentiments believed to be brewing among the public while people remain confined to their homes under self-isolation orders.

Unsurprisingly, safety and a solid sense of security are assumed to be top-of-mind as travelers begin to venture out into the world again, post-coronavirus.

Some suppose that travelers may "test the water" cautiously, while others predict that, coming out of this lengthy isolation, people's desire to shake off cabin fever will spur them to spring for more adventurous, bucket-list-type getaways.

"We're already beginning to see new trends take shape. For example, travelers will be wary of public transportation and plane travel, choosing to drive via their own cars to explore nearby destinations," said Lisa Burns, executive director of the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council. "We also predict there will be a larger emphasis on outdoor, open-air attractions and destinations as social distancing phases out slowly."

Dan Yates, managing director of Pitchup.com, agreed. "Even if the government gives the green light before summer, many will be reticent to travel and will choose remote, domestic locations like campgrounds over densely populated areas, certainly avoiding transport hubs like international airports." Yates added. "We also anticipate an increased interest in low-cost travel given the economic impact coronavirus has inflicted on so many."

Despite these near-term trend forecasts, Ramer also predicts that people will also eager to set things in motion for trips in the further-off future. "After being cooped up, people will start to put plans in place for destinations that have always been on their bucket list," she said, "and they may even be more apt to try adventure-filled experiences with their renewed sense of freedom."

Those who do travel internationally are expected to take steps to avoid crowds, opting for off-the-beaten-path locales and also booking during shoulder season. Tomohiro Murakami and Mika White, founders of Tourism Exchange Japan, said that they expect Japan-bound travelers to seek out smaller, lesser-known prefectures, rather than spending the majority of their stays in overpopulated cities such as Tokyo and Osaka.

Reflecting upon the effects that our collective, pent-up wanderlust is having on society in lockdown, Paul McGowan, founder of Study Hotels, said, "Above all, we must remember that travel is an antidote to all this: providing positive, aspirational feelings in the wake of our current confinement."

— Laurie Baratti
TravelPulse/TNS

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STAY



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

How do you say...?

Use your time in isolation to learn a new language

BY ANDREA SACHS
The Washington Post

Je suis un chat. Clearly, I am not a cat, but to fill my self-quarantined time, I have been repeating this French phrase over and over again. With the encouragement of Duolingo, a foreign language app, I have also been Paul et un chien (a dog). To learn another country's language in these circumstances, I had to accept the new reality.

At this point, we have no idea when we will be able to travel abroad again. But we don't need to be idle. We can keep our travel muscles limber with foreign language classes. Then, once we can roam the globe again, we can gleefully jump right into conversations with locals — and their pets.

Linguist experts and educators say the best way to learn a new language is to converse directly with the instructor or native speaker, ideally in the same physical space. However, with schools and foreign language centers closed, we have to take our lessons indoors, online and in isolation. In response, a few organizations, such as the International Center for Language Studies and the Global Language Network, both in Washington, D.C., have shifted their in-person classes to virtual "synchronous classrooms." For this arrangement, students and teachers confer via Skype, Zoom or another similar computer interface platform.

ICLS is offering private classes as well as 10-week group classes for \$385 (plus \$25 for registration). The Global Language Network charges \$200 but refunds \$100 (minus a \$5 processing fee) if the student does not miss more than two classes for a 12-week package or one class for a six-to-10-week session.

"When it comes to learning a language, nothing compares to the in-person experience," said Andrew Brown, founder and executive director of the Global Language Network, a nonprofit organization. "However, the circumstances of the global pandemic have forced us in a corner,

"When it comes to learning a language, nothing compares to the in-person experience. However, the circumstances of the global pandemic have forced us in a corner, and we are making the best of a challenging situation."

Andrew Brown
 founder, executive director of
 Global Language Network

and we are making the best of a challenging situation."

If your schedule, budget or unruly nest of hair prevents you from pursuing a course of this semipublic nature, try tapping into the trove of resources and tools online.

Angelika Kraemer, director of the Language Resource Center at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., recommends the free programs associated with libraries, such as Mango Languages, which has partnerships with learning institutions around the country.

Kraemer also suggests BBC Languages, which is run by the British public broadcasting company. The multimedia lessons cover about 40 languages, and instruction varies depending on the country.

For similarly creative lessons, Per Urlaub, associate dean of the Language School at Middlebury College in Vermont, directs aspiring speakers to the Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning at the University of Texas, one of 16 national centers funded by the Department of Education. The site posts materials for more than 20 languages.

Urlaub also recommends foreign publications, such as France's Le Monde and Italy's La Repubblica, as a means to improve your reading skills and gain a different perspective of world events. He said to choose a

familiar subject, such as breaking news about the coronavirus, and then graduate to the opinion pages, which contain more challenging linguistic features and cultural viewpoints.

"If I were hunkered down, I would focus on reading proficiency," he said. "Reading skills come first and go last."

The pandemic has driven a lot of us into the arms of Netflix. The marathon watch-fests are escape hatches, but they can also have educational value. Language Learning with Netflix is a free extension available through the Google Chrome Web store that features a catalog of international movie and TV series. In addition to hearing dialogue in the native tongue, you can read subtitles in two languages, which helps with translation, and look up words in a pop-up dictionary, among other tools.

"You don't interact with the language in a natural way, but you can improve your listening comprehension skills and vocabulary," Urlaub said. "But you won't gain oral fluency."

Apps have also stepped into this vacuum and are ideal for people ready to claim their apron strings with Google Translate. But educators warn users to approach the programs with



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realistic expectations.

"Apps give people who have not had a lot of exposure to the language the illusion that they have learned quite a lot," Urlaub said. "Instead of engaging with real people, we are interacting with a static system." However, Urlaub admits that he has used Duolingo to refresh his French and that "in a weird way, it's fun."

During my own self-quarantine, I hoped to awaken my dormant French, which has been in a deep Sleeping Beauty slumber since college. I asked the college professors for advice on navigating the app landscape. Kraemer said to look at the app developers: Are they professionals familiar with the process of learning a new language, or a "tech whiz sitting in an office"? She also approves of apps that resemble video games with competitive goals, ascending levels of success and an ego-boosting award system.

"The game aspect of unlocking the next badge keeps you going back for more," she said.

Other worthwhile attributes: a visually appealing design and lessons organized in digestible time segments.

Earlier this past week, with no shortage of 10- to 30-minute blocks of time, I decided to wave some smelling salts under the nose of my French. I started with Duolingo, because even though I was learning alone in my apartment, I was not alone in the wider Duolingo universe. Michaela Kron, a company spokesperson, said the app boasts 30 million active monthly users and recorded a 91% rise in participants in the United States between the weeks of March 9 and 16. (The app is free, but the upgraded ad-free version ranges from \$7 per month to \$13 per month, depending on the plan.)

I chose a goal of 10 minutes per day and took a placement test that kicked me back my first day of French class in high school. I cycled through lessons that tested me on a handful of pre-K words, such as cat, dog, horse, man and woman, in a variety of challenges, such as translating phrases, speaking a word

Online training sites

International Center for Language Studies: icls.edu
 Global Language Network: thegln.org

Mango Languages: mangolanguages.com
 BBC Languages: bbc.co.uk/languages

Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning: coerll.utexas.edu/coerll

Language Learning with Netflix: languagelearningwithnetflix.com

Duolingo: duolingo.com

Babbel: babbel.com

Rosetta Stone: rosettastone.com

Lirica: lirica.io

into my phone's microphone and typing a phrase uttered in French. I earned gems that I could spend in the Duolingo store and lost and gained hearts that I needed to perform the exercises. I could have nabbed an extra heart by watching an ad, but that seemed like cheating.

I became so driven to excel in Basics I that, two hours later, I was still sitting in the same spot, pounding "A car is eating a croissant" into my phone. Kron later warned me that students should stick to their goal time or they could sabotage their memory retention and, in my case, get a little obsessed. If I stick with Duolingo, the lessons will grow more difficult, plus I can expand my curriculum with such features as Duolingo Stories and the Duolingo French podcast. In addition, once we are allowed to leave our homes, I can meet up with other members at community events — maybe over one pizza and an croissant. (Nailed it.)

Babbel, which has noticed a more than 50% jump in subscriptions since the virus outbreak, lets people sample the goods with its free preview

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Duolingo

WEEKEND: TRAVEL & FOOD

FROM PAGE 26

lesson; the entire learning package costs between \$7 and \$13 a month (and is currently free for U.S. students). The courses for the Newcomer and Beginner I levels cover vocabulary and phrases that any traveler would be grateful to have on the tip of the tongue, such as the words for directions, greetings, clothing items and telling time — plus the odd profanity. The challenges are similar to Duo's — translation, speaking, listening — but the degree of difficulty was higher, and the initial lessons seemed more relevant to real life. The 150 linguists and teachers in charge of creating Babbel's content and methodology can really work a virtual classroom.

After three sections, I could sense a solid foundation of French taking shape. When I shut down my phone that night, I felt as if I could wake up in Paris and ask a local for directions to a clothing store. In the shop, I could point out about a sweater or pair of shoes. And if the store didn't have my size, I could let the curses fly.

Founded in 1992, Rosetta Stone is part of my early travel memories; the mustard-yellow kiosks selling the boxed language programs were as much an airport staple as Hudson News and Auntie Anne's Pretzels. Now, the retail arm is gone, and an app has taken up the mantle. The company has a free three-day trial before you have to start paying from \$36 for three months to \$199 — on sale until June 30 — for a lifetime subscription with unlimited access to all of the languages. (During the pandemic, students can access the resource free.) After my tumble down the rabbit hole with Duolingo, I respected the strict 30-minute increment. I chose the travel-theme series and spent the next half-hour absorbing a slow build of information, from singular nouns to plural, with new verbs introduced. First, everyone was eating and drinking; then they were running, reading and writing. I had a technical glitch: The program said it was struggling to hear me through my faulty microphone. So I lifted the device closer to my mouth and growled in a deep Catherine Deneuve voice. At the end of the lesson, I earned a "Great Job!" from Prof. R. Stone.

For English speakers, Lirica offers only Spanish lessons at the moment but plans to expand this year. The three-year-old company was founded by Paul Custance, a former financial director at Sony Music UK, a connection that makes sense when you realize that the lesson plan is based on international hits — specifically, 44 songs curated by linguists.

"Repetition is a necessary part of learning vocabulary and constructs in a foreign language," Custance said. "Just think of a song you like and part of it will likely play in your head. When language elements are accompanied by a catchy tune, there is a higher chance you will emotionally engage with them and, crucially, remember them."

The app comes with two to three free tapers per level; after you use up your pass, the program costs \$8 for one month or \$25 for a year.

Nicky Jam's "Hasta el Amanecer," an award-winning reggaeton song, was queued up first. The program uses the lyrics as a vehicle to teach grammar and vocabulary words and phrases, as well as sharpen listening and comprehension skills.

"What do we know so far?" Lirica asked me. "Nicky is flirting with a girl," I answered correctly.

Many of the words alone are useful, but strung together — well, it depends on the setting. I will probably have to save "Ven dame ahí, ahí, moviendo todo eso pa' mí," or "Come on, come on, move it all for me," for a conversation with a furniture moving company — or a night in a Latin American dance club.

BY RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

You can eat one with carne asada and corn tortillas in East Los Angeles, or one with flour and pit-grilled pork known as pastor in Dallas. Travelers can pick a few up outside of Berlin's Schonefeld Airport before boarding a flight, or grab one with albondigas and collard greens in Memphis, Tenn.

In each place, you can taste the social and global evolution of the taco, according to Jose R. Ralat.

Some tacos incorporate the influence of Asian or Jewish cuisine. Others do their best to stay true to traditional taco orthodoxy — although no one can agree on what that is.

Ralat, the new Taco Editor at Texas Monthly (yes, that's his title), has written a new book exploring how this simple dish with Mexican origins has spread and been transformed, from San Antonio to Tokyo, gaining fans and sparking some outrage among purists.

A lifelong project, "American Tacos: A History and Guide" comes from Ralat's travels throughout the United States and examines a dish that has come to transcend borders, barriers and bullets.

"No one owns the taco," Ralat said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's a living food, and I wanted to see how it is changing as we change."

Born in what is now Mexico, the taco is a creation of "the encounter" — the meeting of Spanish and indigenous peoples in the Americas. That meeting eventually led to the corn tortilla coming together with meats, beans and greens.

After the U.S.-Mexico War of 1848, the United States grabbed nearly a third of Mexico's northern territory, turning some ethnic Mexicans into Mexican Americans and creating a new southwestern border. The taco north of the line was now on its own, evolving for generations based on the available resources of



its consumers.

As Los Angeles Times writer Gustavo Arellano outlined in his 2012 book, "Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America," Mexican Americans in Texas were forced to use yellow cheese, giving birth to what we call Tex-Mex. Isolated New Mexico used red and green chiles in their tacos. California's ever-changing diverse population added its own flavors.

That history is what fascinated Nuyorican-raised Ralat when he began to explore how demographic upheaval and mass migration have changed the taco.

He found Indo-Mex, or Desi-Tex, tacos in Houston, with restaurants using aloo tikki, saag paneer and curries. In Oregon and Florida, he stumbled upon K-Mex tacos, which use Asian fusion to introduce Korean fried chicken or bigeye tuna sashimi. Ralat found kosher tacos in Los Angeles and Brooklyn made with peppery barbecue brisket pastrami charred with green salsa. "Deli-Mex" is what some called it, Ralat writes.

But of course, Ralat found the heart of Mexican Americana holding true to and

defending taco orthodoxy.

"San Antonio does its best to remain what it calls authentic," Ralat said. "And one could argue, that's also needed."

How could one not enjoy fajitas in a thick flour tortilla with cilantro and onions? (However, some in New Mexico might call this a burrito.)

Still, what's authentic to San Antonio might not be so to the people of El Centro, Calif., or even Tucson, Ariz. On social media, taco fans debate. Ralat brushes that aside, however, as a sign of limited experience.

"I always hear people say, 'well, that's not the way my grandmother made them,'" Ralat said. "You know what? Maybe your grandmother was a bad cook."

Steven Alvarez, an English professor at St. John's University in Queens, N.Y., and creator of a "Taco Literacy" course, said Ralat's book comes as more Latinos are living across the U.S., from Massachusetts to Idaho.

"To understand a people, you have to understand the food," Alvarez said. "More people are coming together, and so is the food."

The food is a vehicle to make sense of new encounters.

"If you are searching for the most authentic taco, you will soon find out it is a fruitless search," Alvarez said. "You'll never find it."

Instead, you'll discover that the taco has moved on, Ralat said.

Today, you can enjoy an English fusion taco in London's Latino-dominated Elephant and Castle area. You can enjoy tacos at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where members of the Oglala Lakota Nation playfully tell visitors they are bringing the taco back to its indigenous roots. You can savor a Central American-influenced taco in East Boston with Brazilian immigrants.

"The taco is Mexico's gift to the world," Ralat said. "And the world is responding."

Texas Monthly Taco Editor Jose R. Ralat poses in March 2019 at a taqueria in Dallas. A new book by Ralat, "American Tacos: A History and Guide," illustrates Ralat's travels throughout the United States while he examines the taco's global metamorphosis.

JOSÉ R. RALAT/AP

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Bouchaine Vineyards



Window into wine country

The views are virtual, but the drinks, bonding are real

By KATE SILVER

Special to The Washington Post

It's 6:15 p.m. in Chicago, and I'm frantically scurrying around the kitchen, slicing and buttering bread, cutting cheese, dishing out hummus, and opening two bottles of pinot noir, a pinot gris and a Chardonnay while my husband, Neil, washes and dries wine glasses.

My laptop is set up on our dinner table, as anticipation builds for our virtual wine tasting, scheduled to begin in 15 minutes. I had recently learned that wineries have been finding virtual ways to offer tastings in this time of coronavirus closures and social distancing, and I wanted to play along. So after narrowing down the options (there are many), I found a \$99 deal I loved through Bouchaine Vineyards in Napa Valley that includes four bottles of wine and a 50-minute video call with a winery rep. In just a few minutes, we'll be looking at rolling vineyards and blue California skies (I'd checked the weather) as we taste the nectars of that very soil, which had arrived on my doorstep the day before. In a world that increasingly feels like Groundhog Day, tonight will be different. It will be an occasion. A reason to put on nonelastic pants and some lipstick.

Except the internet goes out.

There's a technical glitch at the winery, and my phone lights up, letting me know there will be a bit of a delay for our tasting. So I pour two glasses of the 2014 Crescendo pinot noir, and Neil and I take a much-needed deep breath and a drink, as we laugh about how a delay isn't the worst thing, here in our home, surrounded by food and wine.

About an hour later, and a glass and a half in, we're ecstatic to see the image of Brian Allard, direct-to-consumer director with Bouchaine, come on the screen. He's looking dapper in a bow tie, sitting in front of those pastoral views, now softened by the evening's golden hour. We've never met before, and yet, we talk like old friends — after Neil figures out how to unmute us — about how, if nothing else, the global pandemic is making us all more patient and understanding when it comes to technology issues and unexpected changes.

As Neil and I continue sipping our wine, Allard tells us a bit about the beautiful vineyard that unfolds behind him, and describes how the sea breeze wafts in from the San Francisco Bay to the Carneros district, where the winery is. That cool air is perfect, he says, for growing thin-skin pinot noir grapes and making "ballerina-style" wines, rather than the bold, juicy, "sumo wrestler" kind of cabernet sauvignon that Napa is known for (He's right, and the wines are fantastic.)

The conversation turns to virtual tastings — I've let Allard know I'm writing about this — and what they offer people in this strange and unsettling time. I tell him that I had selected this offering because of the reasonable price, the promised vineyard views and, honestly, the novelty of talking to someone we've never met. Under Illinois' stay-at-home orders, we're not encountering many strangers these days.

Allard says that these tastings have taken on a kind of life of their own in recent weeks. While wine geeks are certainly welcome to have a traditional guided tasting, he's finding more and more that customers are looking to throw virtual parties with their friends. In fact, he's hosting one soon that involves 11 college friends all living in different parts of



Beltane Ranch

Above: The Beltane Ranch Quarantine Shelter in Place Tasting Package includes four bottles of wine as well as cheeky enjoyment-at-home strategies, tasting notes and information about winemaking.

Top: A virtual tasting setup in the kitchen at Bouchaine Vineyards in Napa Valley, Calif.

the country who purchased the same wine package. The virtual tasting will kick off their reunion, and then Allard says he'll let the call unfold as the participants wish. "I tell them, 'You let me know when you want this virtual experience to devolve into a cocktail party for you.' I'll just leave and I'll go in my office or some other part of the tasting room while they talk to each other. Sometimes I'll come back; sometimes I won't."

As April drags on into forever, a little wine-fueled fun is something so many of us could use. A glass of chianti or bordeaux or riesling has always been a way to sample faraway places, and now that we're hunkered down, wine can still be a way to bring a little adventure and anticipation into our lives. The notion that we can also support independent businesses across the country hit hard by the pandemic? All the better.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

WEEKEND: TRAVEL & LIFESTYLE



BRANDON MCGANTY/Bouchaine Vineyards

The hills at Bouchaine Vineyards, one of many wineries offering online tasting experiences, overlook the San Francisco Bay.

FROM PAGE 28

Beltane Ranch, a small, working ranch, vineyard and inn in Sonoma County, Calif., has gotten cheeky with its virtual tasting, offering a Quarantine Shelter in Place Tasting Package, which includes four bottles of wine, a "Quarantine Strategy Guide" with notes about each wine, and a video call with someone at the winery (the package is \$150, which includes shipping).

Laura Benward, a fifth-generation family member and co-proprietor of the business, says that her family is trying to offer moments of levity during a stressful time. In the past, the winery might have suggested wines to pair with, say, oysters. Now, she says, it's more likely to suggest wines that go well with Common Core math homework, or leftovers. "We're all in this together, and life isn't the way it was," Benward says. "But there's still some fun ways to engage with each other and enjoy the wines. Because it's really all about enjoying the wines."

In Oregon's Willamette Valley, Project M Wines put together four virtual tasting packs, each with four bottles of wine, that range from \$130 to \$220 (\$hipping is \$15 for the least expensive pack and free for the others) and include a Zoom call with Jerry Murray, the winemaker who owns the business with his wife, Meg. "We wanted to bring the winery visit experience to the home," Jerry says. "So if you can't come to the Willamette Valley now, we can bring the Willamette Valley to you."

Jerry, who speaks poetically about wine and its history, says that the beverage has long been a source of inspiration to poets, artists and philosophers, bringing people together to enjoy one another's company and find inspiration. In everyday life, he says, many people have lost sight of the beauty and the story behind different wines, and he hopes that now, as the world changes before our eyes, they can find that appreciation again. "This is a real opportunity for wine to become something more than a beverage, and certainly something more than the details of its production," he says. "That's what I'm most excited about — and to be able to interact with people. Hopefully, they come away

from the experience thinking about wine differently."

East Coast wineries are also joining the virtual party. In the Finger Lakes region of New York, Silver Thread Vineyard has kept busy through the shutdown so far thanks to its virtual tasting series. The winery is offering discounted wine packages that, in April, ranged in price from \$65 for four bottles to \$93 for six bottles with \$10 flat-rate shipping. Anyone interested can tune in each week to a live virtual tasting on Facebook and type comments or questions for Shannon and Paul Brock, who own the winery.

Shannon says the tastings offer an "armchair travel experience" to the public. "Wine is liquid geography," Shannon says. "That's very cliché, but there are flavors that come out of our wine that are very distinctive and unique to the Finger Lakes region, and that's something you can't get if you're just going into the wine shop and buying the bulk wines with the cutesy labels."

Each bottle of Silver Thread wine has what Shannon describes as a "stony flavor" that comes from the soil of the glacial region, and that flavor imparts a sense of place, even when consumed in a living room far away. "It's not as good as being there yourself and tasting it at the source, but it's a nice alternative right now," she says.

She says she's been heartened to see both new and familiar customers participate in the tastings. Many are even using the weekly streaming event as a way to "meet up" with friends in the same place each week. "There's this whole group of people who live in State College, Penn., and they usually come up as a group of 12 and visit the winery," she says. "They're all doing this."

When the Brocks got into the winery business, they never expected they would be performing an entertainment-style role. Still, Shannon says they love that they can provide this kind of service. "I almost feel like I'm in the USO during World War II," she says. "Everybody has good days and bad days, but everybody needs some good news, and something to look forward to and something to take their mind off all this. Because we can't just sit and watch the news all day."

Skip store-bought cleaners

Clean your home with things you already have on hand

BY AMANDA LONG
Special to The Washington Post

I had finally reached that point in my self-quarantine: It was time to clean the kitchen, already. I'm not a slob, but I am someone who doesn't usually have the time — or, frankly, the desire to spend the time I have — cleaning the greasy cabinet above the stove. Now, of course, there's more time than toilet paper.

What's in short supply are supplies. So I asked cleaning experts for advice on making what we need with what we have at home — and to tell me how to save those precious disinfectants and paper towels for the jobs only they can do.

"The good news is that you don't need much," says Melissa Maker, founder of the Canadian-based housekeeping service Clean My Space.

And what you need, you likely already have or can still get. "For us, this is nothing new," says Cristian Dantzs of the Green Mop in Arlington. "We have always made our own cleaning supplies with a focus on the environment."

DIY disinfectants

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has guidance for two DIY disinfectants. One uses bleach, the other rubbing alcohol, both effective on high-touch areas: door knobs, light switches, phones, cabinet handles, etc.

Debbie Sardone, owner of SpeedCleaning.com, follows her "Speed Cleaning Rule of Three" to make the most of DIY disinfectants.

Rule 1: Clean first, then zap. Before you grab the disinfectant, get rid of grung, grime and crumbs with a regular cleaner or your hands. Now you can zap with a disinfectant.

Rule 2: Spray and stay. After you spray the surface, wait at least 90 seconds for that disinfectant to do its job, Sardone says. (Clorox advises two minutes on its bleach bottles.)

Rule 3: One and done. By the time you use that wipe on the third doorknob, you're doing more harm than good. Given the waste of "one and done," it's another reason our experts use machine-washable microfiber cloths. Those need to be washed after each side has been used, to avoid transferring germs from surface to surface.

Bleach

"Bleach is an amazing disinfectant, but you have to dilute it," Sardone says.

The CDC bleach recipe calls for one-third cup of bleach to one gallon of water. That's four teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.

Take that solution and pour it in a deep container. Cut a roll of paper towels and shop towels in half, pull out the cardboard and submerge both halves. Bleach loses its disinfecting power after 24 hours, so only submerge the number of paper towels you'll use in that time period in the container. Make a new solution after 24 hours and plop another round of towels in.

Whatever container you use, be sure to label it as bleach.

"Whatever you do, don't use a water bottle — even if you don't have kids and think you'll remember it has bleach in it," Sardone says. "It's not worth the risk."

And never mix bleach with ammonia, vinegar or any other solution. That's especially crucial to remember if you're repurposing empty bottles. Rinse the bottle clean with water until you see no suds from its former inhabitant, Maker says. Fill with fresh water and pump the trigger, spraying until sud-free water comes out.

Disinfectants are your big guns, so use them cautiously, wearing a mask and gloves.

Alcohol

There's "not an ounce of bleach in my house," says Maker, who prefers the CDC-approved alcohol solutions of at least 70 percent alcohol.

This concentration disqualifies even the fanciest of vodkas (40 percent), so save the booze for a Zoom happy hour. If you have 70 percent rub-downing alcohol, use it straight, no water. Dilute 90 percent alcohol with just a little water.

Phones and computer keyboards are a great place to start (and end) the day with a disinfectant wipe. We're working, socializing, exercising and learning

through our screens and machines, so treat them to frequent wipedowns, Maker says. (Do take care with touch screens, though, which could be damaged.)

Soap

Everyday cleaners won't disinfect, but they will lift and remove dirt and grease.

"Basic dish soap and water is a very effective cleaner for the majority of things in your house," Maker says. "Soap is designed to lift dirt and grease — fingerprints, footprints, jam, whatever your cat threw up on a hard surface. Soap and water can take pretty much whatever you throw at it."

Vinegar

For glass, use vinegar mixed with water in equal parts. Newspapers stacking up? Color-free pages can stand in for paper towels, Dantzs says.

For floors, he uses a solution of 70 percent water and 30 percent vinegar.

Baking soda

Need abrasion for grime, stubborn pots and pans, or soap scum? Behold the humble baking soda. "You can't find yeast, can't find flour, but you can find baking soda — and it's inexpensive!" Maker says.

To blend with water, add a tiny amount of soda until you have a thin paste.

If you don't get enough grit, add more baking soda, Maker says. The mix doesn't keep well, so just mix just enough for the chore at hand.

Oil

That fridge looking a little worse for all its sudden, unpredictable wear? Dantzs uses olive oil or baby oil on greasy stainless steel appliances. Wipe down any excess dirt with water, and put a few drops of oil on a microfiber cloth for the first coat. Another wipe with a clean microfiber cloth will get rid of any oily residue.

Kitchen table/schoolroom/work desk need some love? Dantzs recommends a few drops of olive oil and lemon juice on a microfiber cloth or rag to give furniture an extra shine.

"There are all kinds of hacks and plenty of time to try them out," Dantzs says.



WEEKEND: MUSIC

On the night of Thursday, March 12, just hours after some of the world's largest concert promoters urged a moratorium on live events due to the spreading coronavirus, 18,000 people packed into the Pepsi Center in downtown Denver to watch Post Malone perform. "If I get the coronavirus at the Post Malone concert tonight in Denver just know it was lit," one fan wrote on Twitter, along with an emoji expressing tears of joy.

Such blind devotion is not uncommon among admirers of Post Malone, a 24-year-old Texan whose real name is Austin Richard Post. Last year, his music was listened to more times than any artist in the U.S., according to MRC Data, and he generated more than 1.6 billion views on YouTube in the U.S., second only to Louisiana rapper YoungBoy Never Broke Again.

In Bloomberg's new Pop Star Power Rankings, which grade artists' earnings ability based on six criteria across touring, album sales and social media, Post Malone debuted at No. 10 for March, thanks to the continued sales of his latest album, "Hollywood's Bleeding." Looking back at the 2019 data, Post would have ranked No. 1 for the entire year.

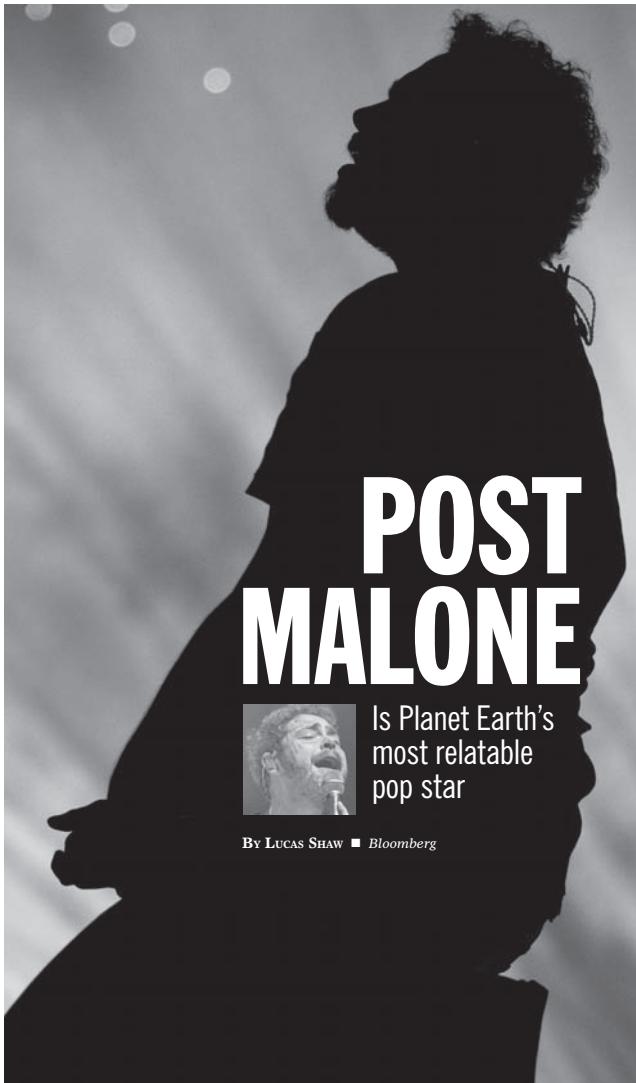
"This guy is never really off the radar," said David Bakula, the head of analytics at MRC Data. "Every single week he is streaming like crazy." Bakula has seen the rise and fall of every pop star over the past couple of decades. Post is the first act he's seen who gets equal amounts of play on mainstream Top 40 radio, alternative rock and hip-hop stations.

Post even has a following among fans of country music. Before Goldenvoice postponed its annual Stagecoach festival, which occurs this weekend after Coachella, it had asked Post to perform. "We don't box him into any genre," said his agent Cheryl Paglierani.

The unrelenting rise of Post Malone kicked off in February 2015 when he released an independently produced single titled "White Iverson" on SoundCloud, the free audio distribution platform. The spacey, laconic song drew an analogy between his lyrical skills and the basketball prowess of Allen Iverson, the 11-time NBA All-Star. To some listeners, the comparison didn't seem all that far-fetched, and the song did well enough online to land Post a deal with Republic Records, the home of Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande and Drake.

Executives at Republic, led by brothers Monáe and Avery Lipman, are famous for their reliance on data to drive big signings. They see a song bubbling up on the internet and put the full force of their promotional machine behind it. The video for "White Iverson" was generating millions of views on YouTube, and they were convinced they could turn the song into the biggest hit in the world.

They were wrong. Radio stations didn't give the song much love, and it petered out midchart, peaking outside the top 10. For a moment, executives at Republic Records fretted that their new



BY LUCAS SHAW ■ Bloomberg

signing might not live up to their expectations. Perhaps he was less of an Allen Iverson and more of a Bobby Hurley?

To broaden his base of support beyond some kids on the internet, Paglierani decided to send him on the road. On tour with SBTTRKT, Post began winning over fans of electronic music. From there, he started opening for Fetty Wap, a rapper from New Jersey. Then, in March 2016, he landed a coveted spot opening for Justin Bieber on his summer tour. "That was a game changer," Paglierani said. "It

opened him up to a new audience and put him in front of thousands of teen girls every night, very different from the hardcore hip-hop audience at Fetty Wap."

Post released his first studio album, "Stoney," in December 2016. It debuted at No. 6 on the Billboard charts, got steady attention on streaming services and eventually worked its way into rotation on the radio. In October 2017, "Rockstar," featuring

21 Savage, became Post's first No. 1 song.

At the time, Post was still known primarily as a rapper, but while on tour for "Stoney," he proved he didn't fit neatly into any genre. For two years, his team had been begging him to play a guitar on stage. Post had grown up on country music, but he was reluctant to play in front of a crowd. Halfway through the tour, he changed his mind. From

Above and inset: Post Malone performs at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia on Feb. 21 during his "Runaway Tour."

PHOTOS BY OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

then on, he plucked the strings vigorously each night in front of adoring fans in sold-out clubs across the country.

When Post released his follow-up, "Beerbongs & Bentleys," in spring 2018, the market was primed. He sold 461,000 copies in one week, earning his first No. 1 album. "Beerbongs & Bentleys" stayed in the top 20 for a year and a half. "That just doesn't happen," Bakula said.

Even so, many critics were unimpressed. "The most popular young artist in the most unpopular young nation is a rhinestone cowboy who looks like he crawled out of a primordial swamp of nacho cheese," Jeff Weiss, a prominent music writer, wrote in the Washington Post in October 2018. He called Post's music "one of the shallowest bastardizations of rap to date."

His fans are not easily dissuaded. Post's audience has broadened from teens and tweens to include adults. He is as popular in Los Angeles and New York, where he can sell out an arena two nights in a row, as he is in Omaha, Neb., where he grossed more than \$2 million in ticket sales one night this year.

Record executives compare Post to Nickelback and Creed, two rock bands that never got much respect from critics or awards voters but sold more than 100 million albums between them.

Post is easy to mock, a goofy-looking white guy with face tattoos who endorses Bud Light and Croc shoes. While most pop stars in the age of Instagram craft online personas that seem just a tad too perfect, Post rejects this artificiality. He belongs to the Chrissy Teigen school of social media: Messy is good. His Instagram is littered with photos in which he looks tired and ridiculous. You're just as likely to see him in pajama pants as Gucci. For many of his fans, that unkempt relatability is central to his appeal. "He doesn't care what other people think," said James, a Wisconsin resident who oversees a Post Malone fan account. (He declined to provide his last name or age.) "He seems like a genuine person."

Amy Snortland Esposito, 39, a rock-music fan from Port Washington, N.Y., said she has seen the Dave Matthews Band about 75 times. She fell in love with Post Malone after hearing the song "Sunflower" on the radio. Esposito's only complaint about her new favorite act is his ample use of swear words. "As a mother of two kids, I curtail the listening if they are in the car," she said. "When they are not in the car, I listen to more of it."

In February, Esposito and a group of friends drove down to Philadelphia to see Post perform. They packed into Section 106 of the Wells Fargo Center, close enough to feel the pyrotechnic displays. Esposito was surprised to see how many people over the age of 30 were in attendance. She was also surprised to see a large number of kids. "There is a lot of pop music that is really terrible. It lacks substance. It lacks musical quality," she said. "His music offers an attainable way to stay fresh and hip."

WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS



Wrenne Evans

**M. Ward**

Migration Stories (Anti- Records)

The borders delineating M. Ward's "Migration Stories" come in terrestrial and celestial forms, with songs inspired by his grandfather's journey from Mexico and California earthquakes, as well as family reunions taking place in other dimensions.

Recorded principally in Quebec with members and collaborators of Arcade Fire, the collection began as largely instrumental ballads, mostly hushed moods occasionally linked by similar themes or visions.

Ward, whose career also has included roles in supergroup Monsters of Folk and — with Zooey Deschanel — in She & Him, filters reality through poetry, dreams and humane science fiction, alternating looks through grounded telescopes and microscopes in orbit.

"Unreal City," referencing a dream about a "continental shake" and "the final tidal wave," has the album's nimblest rhythms and sunny backing vocals, tuning our satellite radio to the Soothing Sounds of the '70s channel amid the calamity.

Jessie Reyez might be petite, but she's a monster. We didn't say that. She did, on her official debut album. But she memorably adds a certain expletive before the word "monster." Reyez is definitely a monster when it comes to music. The Toronto-bred artist who once handed out mix-tapes for free has created a stunning full-length calling card with "Before Love Came to Kill Us."

Before the coronavirus disrupted our lives, Reyez was showing off her music on tour with Billie Eilish, and that combo of artists on the same bill is genius. Reyez is as unique and undeniable as her musical compatriot.

The 14-track "Before Love Came to Kill Us" shows off multiple sides to Reyez, who isn't easy to categorize. There's some hip-hop, downer R&B, arena ballads and pop. Whatever it sounds like, it's intense.

"If I blow your brains out / I can guarantee that you'd forget her / If I blow your brains out / I can kiss it better," Reyez sings on the first song, "Do You Love Her," which casually mentions her Beretta.

She lets her fierce flag fly frequently on the album: "You make me wanna jump off the roof," she sings in one song. "My love is ruthless," she sings on another. "I ain't a killa / I'll let you

**Jessie Reyez**Before Love Came to Kill Us
(FMLY/Island Records)

Opener "Migration of Souls," with striking vocals from Irish duo The Lost Brothers, has a transcendent focus, while its sister track, "Heaven's Nail and Hammer," echoes the atmosphere of the Cowboy Junkies at their most delicate. "Coyote Mary's Traveling Show" sounds like the result of a fragile Sun Records session.

Ward considers "Chamber Music" and "Torch," another exception in its sprightliness, also to be connected, and says that while he can't reveal the poem that may have transformed guitar instrumental "Stevens' Snow Man," the words "may be useful in the middle of a drought or winter or pandemic." If we only knew.

The relaxed pacing, Ward's intimate vocals and tips of the cap to Hank Williams, Elvis Presley and the sounds of the West give the album a decidedly nighttime atmosphere, a drizzle of starlight that settles gently on the ears and the mind.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press

breathe," Reyez reassures on a third. She may rely on co-writers, but the lyrics are usually all hers and she shows her passion and her scars.

Reyez can modify her voice to be childlike or whispery and then zoom into pure gangsta menace. On the fantastic "Roof," she raps with astonishing speed. She can pivot wonderfully from style to style, offering the spare, Spanish guitar-inflected "Intruders" one moment and then singing entirely in Spanish on "La Memoria."

Not all of it works, including the Eminem collaboration "Coffin," which seems unbalanced. But the other featured artist, 6LACK, does better on the terrific R&B hit "Imported," in which Reyez's voice flutters and she cracks herself up.

"Same Side" rather meanders, without the bite of the other songs. "Dope" simply grates. (Plus "Far Away," a fantastic immigrant's love song, is unfortunately on the main album but on the one exclusive for Target.)

But there's no denying this rising artist, who already has a Grammy nomination for her 2018 EP "Being Human in Public." On the single "Ankles" from the new album, Reyez boasts that no rival can measure up to her ankles. She's right.

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press**Nina Simone**

Fodder On My Wings (Verve/UME)

Nina Simone's "Fodder On My Wings" is an album of contrasts and extremes — personal trauma and world sounds, joy and despair, harmony and defiance, the carnal and the spiritual.

Recorded in Paris in 1982, as Simone's enduring restlessness and creeping mental illness kept her life seemingly barely tethered to anything but her music, it's a considerable triumph of personality and genius.

The album opens with the gleeful "I Sing Just To Know That I'm Alive," a horn-filled tune in which Simone bids farewell to the year gone by while fondly recalling Trinidad, one of the many places — Barbados, Liberia, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands among them — where she lived after leaving the U.S. in the early 1970s.

"Fodder In Her Wings" appears to depersonalize the album title, but the references to self are clear and the weariness deeply intimate — "fodder in her wings" and "dust inside her brains" as she flitted here and there." With an African-inspired introduction ceding to harpsichord and piano, her worlds appear together but separate. "Oh, how sad," indeed.

The repetitive, direct approach of "Vous êtes vous, mais je désire être avec vous" — You are alone, but I want to be with you — leaves no room for doubt, while "Il y a un baume à Gilead" and "Heaven Belongs To You" are the spiritual expressions in the equation.

"Liberian Calypso" is another sparkling composition recounting a carefree night of dancing, followed in brutal contrast by one of the bonus tracks, a bitter yet stateside reworking of Gilbert O'Sullivan's "More Alone Again (Naturally)," more depressing even than the original.

Narrating her father's agonizing death, it rails against bad but lasting marriages, betrayals and childhood deceptions, yet includes a most understandable lament: "I loved him then and I loved him still / That's why my heart's so broken."

At the end, the brief "Stop" and the even briefer "They Took My Hand" are in playful, Mose Allison mode, the former undressing the tragedy of "Send in the Clowns" and the latter a rollicking Bob Marley salute.

"Fodder On My Wings" is not an album for casual listeners or day trippers, but one that shows how clearly Simone could fold her inescapable anguish and raw honesty into her art.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press

WEEKEND: TELEVISION

Remembering the mischief

Film adaptation of 2018 book explores evolution of the Beastie Boys

BY MARK OLSEN
Los Angeles Times

This is nice, just hanging out with you guys," Spike Jonze is in Hawaii. Adam Horowitz is in his garage, and Michael Diamond is in his bedroom, both in greater Los Angeles. It's late March, not long after the coronavirus prompted shelter-at-home orders, and the three of them are on a video conference call ostensibly for an interview about their collaboration on the new film "Beastie Boys Story."

Originally scheduled to have its world premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival — canceled because of the global pandemic — the movie hits Apple TV Plus on Friday.

Though they are promoting the film — directed by Jonze as an adaptation of a stage show performed by Horowitz and Diamond, better known by their respective Beastie Boys monikers "Ad-Rock" and "Mike D" — the trio would rather just catch up, share inside jokes, playfully razz one another and think about anything besides the thing everyone can't stop thinking about.

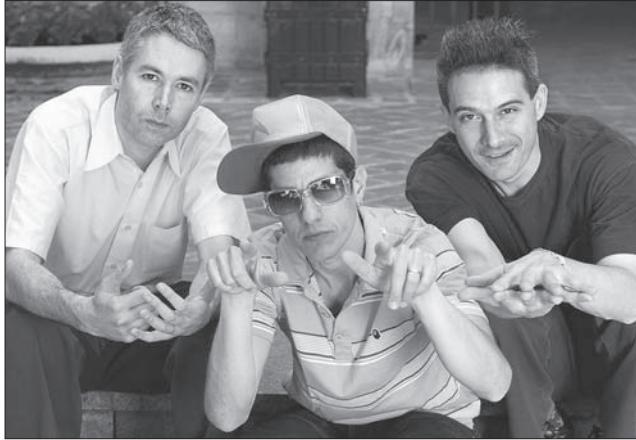
"This is crazy," Horowitz says at one point. "I got no plans to do nothing except try not to die. Straight up."

There are running gags about how Diamond cannot get the camera on his computer to work — "Hold on, I'm going to crack the firewall," Jonze says — or their complex relationship to "leather bad boys," the type of couches ubiquitous to recording studios, or a digression about learning three-dimensional breathing techniques. More than anything, they seem to want to make one another laugh, each disappointed when a joke doesn't land.

"You're a tough crowd," Diamond says to his longtime cohorts.

"Beastie Boys Story" rose out of 2018's "Beastie Boys Book," a 571-page telling of the history of the band from their days as teenagers on the New York City punk scene in the early 1980s to their rise as a multiplatinum, Grammy-winning rap group. They had startling longevity and a knack for creative reinvention, seeing them through albums such as "License to Ill," "Paul's Boutique," "Check Your Head" and "Ill Communication" all the way to their last, 2011's "Hot Sauce Committee Part Two." Member Adam Yauch, known as "MCA," died from cancer in 2012 at age 47.

Diamond and Horowitz didn't really see themselves doing conventional book signings or Q&As to promote the book. They decided to put on a stage adaptation of the book, a multimedia presentation directed by Jonze.



BERTRAND GUAY, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/TNS

From left: Adam Yauch, aka "MCA"; Michael Diamond, aka "Mike D"; and Adam Horowitz, aka "Ad-Rock," of the Beastie Boys, are pictured in Paris on May 20, 2004.

They performed in several cities and filmed three nights in April 2019 at Brooklyn's Kings Theater for the movie.

"I think it's definitely our intent to have each thing sort of be its own thing," Diamond says of the evolution from book to audiobook to stage show to movie. "But then I really liked that it was kind of this continuous arc. Like I remember how we finished the book and I was going for a beach walk with Spike one day. And that's before we even did our very first show, and I was like, 'Adam and I are trying to figure out what to do. Pretend like we're actual authors, wear Harris tweed blazers with suede patches and act professional at bookstores?'

"And we talked about, well what if we picked the stories we like and made it a little more theatrical?" Diamond continues. "And it was kind of like that, this nice thing where we literally had no idea what we're doing, but it seemed to kind of work, and it felt good to us. And then originally I think we all thought that the film was going to be more of this document of what we'd done on stage, but then actually we realized, once we started, that it

kind of took a life of its own and realized, no, it had to be its own thing."

For a band that seemed dedicated to always moving forward to its next creative endeavor, its evolving cultural curiosities often making a road map to the styles of the zeitgeist, the idea of looking back might seem anathema.

Asked whether his perspective on the band has changed at all over the course of putting together the book and show and now movie, Diamond says dryly, "Bunch of jerks."

He adds, "I think the thing that doing the show and movie and everything made me appreciate is just how completely frigging unlikely the whole thing is. Because while you're in it and you're making stuff, you don't know. The fact that all these things happened in the first place and keep happening, in a good way — that we were really fortunate to be able to continue for this ridiculously long time and doing what we love with people that we love and still somehow managed to enjoy doing it. So I guess we appreciated that more."

Throughout the book and on into the stage show and movie,

Horowitz and Diamond are remarkably candid and reflective about mistakes they made along the way, such as the undiplomatic way they dropped their first drummer, Kate Schellenbach, from the band, or the bratty, regressive attitudes they displayed during the early "License to Ill" era and how they made a conscious effort to adopt more progressive views as they developed over the years. They are also very open about their relationship and eventual falling out with their first manager, Russell Simmons, and producer Rick Rubin.

The interesting thing is that if you write a book about yourself, it's a good opportunity to be able to rewrite history, right?" Horowitz says. "You can write whatever you want; you can write how amazing you were, and you can blame other people for this, and the other, whatever. And so I feel like we tried to just sort of tell it like it was."

"Good example: Russell Simmons," Horowitz continues. "We had great times with Russell Simmons. He was really important to our band. Same with Rick Rubin, right? I'm not friends with either of them, but it was

an amazing time that we had together. So that will remain. What does it do to yourself to pretend or to just block that out of your life?"

"I think that's part of being fortunate," Diamond says. "We actually got to be around long enough to comment on the dumb (stuff) that we did. I feel like a lot of times, people just don't get that moment of actually still having a voice or still having some relevance to be like, 'Hold on, let's rewind here for a minute and let's look at what we did and sort of be able to live through that again.'"

Before Jonze can answer about his part in the process of making the stage show and the film, Horowitz interrupts — "Can we go back to the walk that you and Mike had on the beach?"

Jonze is now an Oscar-winning filmmaker. In the early 1990s, he was transitioning from making skateboard videos to being one of the era's most influential music video directors. He directed the video for the Beastie Boys' "Sabotage," an uproarious parody of '70s cop shows shot short around Los Angeles that became a defining artifact of the mid-'90s. He drove a car in a demolition derby at a California county fair for the Beastie Boys' short-lived magazine *Grand Royal*. Their mutual sensibilities of mischievous creativity seemed perfectly aligned.

"Well, I loved everything they did before I met them, so I kind of already had a relationship with them, in my head," Jonze says. "And I think in meeting them, they were even cooler than my imagination. They were more fun than I could have possibly hoped. And it felt very easy to make stuff with them. And I was maybe only a couple of years younger, but certainly wasn't successful or known in any way, but they treated me like an equal creative collaborator. It kind of fell right into place pretty easily."

Having completed the book, the audiobook, the stage show and now the movie, this could conceivably be the end of the line for the collaboration between Horowitz and Diamond, wrapping up the business of being Beastie Boys.

So will they work together again on something new?

"I mean, I don't want to," Horowitz says, his joke landing with a bit of a thud as Diamond's videoconference camera remained dark. "I wish I could see your face, Mike."

"I'm sure we're going to. I mean, what else are we going to do?" Horowitz continues. "We don't know how to do anything else."

"We don't have any other life skills," Diamond says, "although now we have some downtime to work on that."

I feel like a lot of times, people just don't get that moment of actually still having a voice or still having some relevance to be like, "Hold on, let's rewind here for a minute and let's look at what we did and sort of be able to live through that again."

Michael Diamond, aka "Mike D"
Beastie Boys member

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

"The Assistant": A young woman, Jane (Julia Garner), gets an exciting job as an assistant to an esteemed Hollywood producer. Those familiar with the systemic abuses of women in the workplace will recognize the story beats, inspired by Harvey Weinstein, who was convicted of rape and sentenced to 23 years in prison last month.

But there's much more to the story than that.

As Jane continues to learn about what's going on at the company, the film shows how people, systems and power structures enable these types of abuses. It's much, much bigger than one monster at the top.

Writer-director Kitty Green does a masterful job showing — not telling — this story, with silences more powerful than words could be, wrote Tribune News Service critic Katie Walsh in her review.

"At once austere and daring, 'The Assistant' may be the first cinematic shot across the bow at Weinstein, taking the structures that supported his crimes down with him," she wrote.

Also available on DVD.

"Arrow: The Eighth and Final Season": The CW series following the DC hero comes to a close. Stars Stephen Amell.

"Guns Akimbo": A game developer (Daniel Radcliffe) finds himself in a live-streaming fight to the death.

"I Wish I Knew": This documentary explores the history of life in Shanghai. In Mandarin.

"Mortal Kombat Legends: Scorpion's Revenge": Based on the long-running video game series, the animated film follows a faceoff between the Outworld and Earthrealm. Featuring the voice talents of Jennifer Carpenter and Joel McHale.

"The Rhythm Section": A woman (Blake Lively) is determined to get revenge against the people who killed her family in a plane crash.

"Ride Like a Girl": Jockey Michelle Payne (Teresa Palmer) aims to become the first woman to win the Melbourne Cup.

"Tread": The documentary examines what led welder Marvin Heemeyer to destroy a small Colorado town.

Available on Digital HD:

"The Incoherents": An indie band from '90s gets back together decades later. Stars Jeff Auer, Annette O'Toole, Amy Carlson and Kate Arrington.

"The Photograph": While a woman (Issa Rae) seeks answers about her recently deceased mother's life, she falls for a journalist (LaKeith Stanfield). On DVD and Blu-ray May 12.

"Nightfire": A political prisoner foils agents' plans to retrieve some top-secret military information. Stars Dylan Baker, Becky Ann Baker and Bradley Stryker. Release date: May 1.

"The Wretched": A teenage faces off with a witch who has possessed his neighbor. Release date: May 1.

— Katie Foran-McHale/TNS



PHOTOS BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/AP

Dr. Jane Goodall walks along the beach of Africa's Lake Tanganyika in National Geographic's "Jane Goodall: The Hope."

Not 'business as usual'

Don't monkey around when the pandemic ends, Jane Goodall says

BY JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.

Associated Press

Even though the planet has reaped the benefits of a cleaner environment from society shutting down during the coronavirus outbreak, Jane Goodall worries about human behavior resorting back to a "business as usual" mindset after the pandemic is over.

The famed primatologist wants people to grow wiser and live an enjoyable life without harming the environment and the animals that live within it.

"We have to learn how to deal with less," said Goodall, who began her lauded career as a pioneering researcher of chimpanzees in Africa more than 50 years ago. She's worked for decades on conservation, animal welfare and environmental issues.

Since 1991, Goodall has encouraged young people to become stewards in their communities through her Roots & Shoots program, which operates in 60 countries. She normally travels 300 days per year to advocate her endeavors, but these days she's been staying busy inside her family home in Bournemouth, England, to practice social distancing. She calls it more "exhausting than traveling."

In a recent interview, Goodall, 86, shared her thoughts on the coronavirus, wild animal poaching and her new documentary "Jane Goodall: The Hope," which premiered April 22 on National Geographic and Nat Geo Wild, and is streaming on Disney Plus and Hulu. The two-hour documentary focuses on her lauded career of transforming the scope of environmentalism.

AP: How would you like for the world to react when the pandemic is over?

Goodall: Hopefully we should emerge wiser. I think there will be greater awareness of how we brought this pandemic on ourselves and that people will change. I

hope there's a groundswell of enough millions of people who've never before breathed clean air in cities, who've never been able to look up at night and see a clear sky with twinkling stars. I hope that there will be enough of them to eventually force big business and politicians to ... stop carrying on with business as usual. But the fear is that so many leaders now around the world don't seem to care about future generations, don't seem to care about the health of the planet.

What's the solution?

We need a different way of thinking about things. We need to realize that unlimited economic development on a world with finite natural resources and growing human populations can't work. Already, in some cases, we're using up natural resources before nature can replenish them. So we cannot expect to survive very far into the future unless we make some change ... We have to learn to do with less in the wealthier sections of society. Most of us have far more than we actually need.

How has animal poaching still been an issue during this pandemic?

It's the animal trafficking that's so bad. Shooting the mother to take the infant and be sold to be pets and trained for entertainment. Some go to bat zoos. It's animal trafficking that's worth so many billions of dollars a year. This is one of the biggest problems we are going through with this pandemic. As tourism stops in different parts of Africa and other countries, poaching goes up partly because people have lost their jobs and they rely on wildlife for food. The tours give them added protection. It's a huge worry.

Did you expect this career path?

When I began, my dream since the age of 10 was to go to Africa, live with wild animals and write books about them. I had no thought of being a scientist. Nobody was out there in the fields watching animals. I



A chimpanzee eats a mango in a tree in National Geographic's "Jane Goodall: The Hope," which premiered April 22 on National Geographic and Nat Geo Wild and streaming on Disney Plus and Hulu.

wanted to be a naturalist. From the start, it wasn't my aim to go and study chimpanzees and get a Ph.D. I always wanted to help animals all my life. And then naturally that led to 'If you want to save wild animals, you have to work with local people, find ways for them to live without harming the environment and then getting worried about children and what future they could have if we go on as business as usual.'

What do you want people to take away from your documentary?

I hope that they take away a feeling that their lives are important. That it's very, very crucial to think about the health of the planet as it relates to future generations. Above all, to understand that each day they live, they can make an impact and think about the consequences of the little choices they make like, 'What did we buy? Where did it come from? How was it made? Did it harm the environment? Was it cruel to animals? Is it cheap because of child slave labor?' We have to make ethical choices in how we interact with people and nature.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

In defense of idle hands

Author says quarantine gives us a rare chance to slow down, reassess our lives

By ERICA PEARSON
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Canceled plans and stay-at-home orders have many (especially teenagers) singing the latest Tik-Tok anthem: "Bored in the House."

Journalist Celeste Headlee, however, sees the silver lining in being forced to slow down.

In her new book, "Do Nothing: How to Break Away From Overworking, Overdoing, and Underliving," Headlee writes that we need to relearn how to appreciate idleness and leisure and rethink our relationship with work and productivity.

Being constantly busy and always striving for efficiency has caused us to cut out "expressions of our basic humanity," such as long, undirected phone conversations, chatting with neighbors, personal hobbies — even being bored.

We talked to Headlee, who lives in Washington, D.C., about the toxic side to being busy, why texting isn't an authentic social connection and why being bored can be a very good thing.

Star Tribune: What do you say to all the kids (and adults) who are complaining about being bored?

Headlee: Frankly, that is music to my ears. When I think about how many times I complained to my mother about being bored and she threw me outside the house and told me to find something to do. And that's not true anymore. We've engineered our way out of boredom. We just hand the kids a tablet, or a [Nintendo] Switch or something.

So being bored during quarantine can be a good thing?

There is the side of this which is serious, and tragic and life-threatening. But for those of us who are keeping others safe by staying at home, there might be some benefit. We are forced to slow down now. And we are forced to find things to do that are unconnected to our jobs.

Is that a plus?

I think that a lot of people have started to realize how much of their life was wrapped up in their job, how much of their identity was wrapped up in their job. That may be a real eye-opener for people. That may not be what you wanted — to have your whole life be structured around going to work. And so maybe this is an opportunity.

My goal with the book was to create a global conversation and convince people to rethink their relationship with work. And I think that's happening right now.

What should we be focusing on instead?

Authentic social connections. Everyone has a limited amount of social energy. Let's completely hypothetically say you have 100 watts of social energy every day. We're spending 90 of those watts on social media, on Facebook and Instagram and Twitter. The problem is that social media does not fulfill your needs.

It's really important right now that people understand that digitally mediated conversations — email, texting and social media — do not fulfill your innate need for social connection. Put limits on that, and invest in authentic social connections. By that I mean, social connections in which

you hear another human voice.

Texting doesn't count?

It doesn't. I could cite you study after study. It's the human voice that connects us, that allows us to recognize one another as human beings. It's the human voice

that triggers things within our own brain, in our physiology, that helps us to feel comforted.

How can we maintain authentic connections under quarantine?

I'm not anti-tech at all. There's good, solid research showing that teleconferencing is almost as good as an in-person

reason this [slowing down] is a struggle for us.

I mention in the book that most management has a 19th-century mind-set in a 21st-century world. Meaning, they still think that you should reward people who work really long, hard hours.

That's not true anymore. We can do our jobs in much less time than it used to take, and yet that attitude toward slaving at your desk for 16 hours a day, it's still hanging around.

Do you think we can change?

One of the reasons I wanted to delve so deeply into history is to remind us that Homo sapiens have been around for 300,000 years and change. These toxic habits have only been around for 200 or 300 years. It's a blink in the long star of evolution. It's bad for us, and it's time for us to recognize that our habits right now are anti-human and to go back to the habits that are pro-human.

How can we go back to pro-human habits?

Normally I make people keep account of their hours, because they can really see how they spend their time. People don't realize how much time they're spending on things. But right now,

here's what I would say: If you are one of the people working from home, it is extremely important that you set boundaries. I mean, you need to set up physical boundaries.

Choose one place in your living space where you work. When you're in that space, you're working. And when you leave it, you're not working anymore. You need your brain to understand that home is a place for not just work.

You don't need to choose a quitting time. That's up to you, when that time is. But at that point, when the bell rings, you are done working. You don't check that email anymore. And you leave that workspace and you get back to your regular life, which is unconnected from work.

What's the goal?

To find out who you are when you're not working. Most people don't know anymore.

"It's really important right now that people understand that digitally mediated conversations — email, texting and social media — do not fulfill your innate need for social connection. "

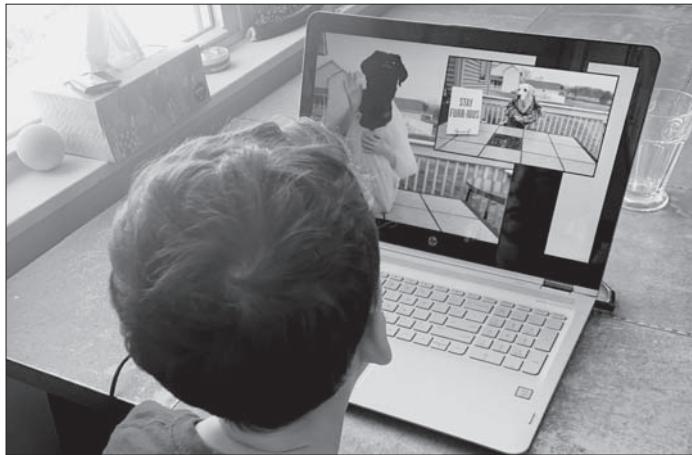
Celeste Headlee

Author of "Do Nothing: How to Break Away From Overworking, Overdoing, and Underliving"



iStock

WEEKEND: FAMILY



ALEXANDRA NICHOLSON/AP

Alexandra Nicholson's son, Henry Martinsen, on his computer April 6 in Quincy, Mass.

'I just can't do this'

Trying to home school kids leaves parents flustered

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
AND JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

Frustration is mounting as more families across the U.S. enter their second or even third week of distance learning — and some overwhelmed parents say it will be their last.

Amid the barrage of learning apps, video meet-ups and emailed assignments that pass as pandemic home school, some frustrated and exhausted parents are choosing to disconnect entirely for the rest of the academic year. Others are cramming all their children's school work into the weekend or taking days off work to help their kids with a week's worth of assignments in one day.

"We tried to make it work the first week. We put together a schedule, and what we found is that forcing a child who is that young into a fake teaching situation is really, really hard," said Alexandra Nicholson, whose son is in kindergarten in a town outside Boston.

"I'd rather have him watch classic Godzilla movies and play in the yard and pretend to be a Jedi rather than figure out basic math."

That stress is only compounded for families with multiple children in different grades, or when parents work long hours outside the home. In some cases, older siblings must watch younger ones during the day, leaving no time for schoolwork.

Those with older children may be faring better, but parents still must keep track of timing for video chats with teachers and make sure all the assignments are completed.

Sarah Karpanity, 44, a mother of two middle schoolers in Roanoke, Va., said the reality kicked in last week when spring break ended and home learning began.

"I wanted to get into a fetal position and hide out," said Karpanity, a professor of wildlife biology at Virginia Tech who is also teaching her own students online.

Her boys, aged 12 and 13, are independent but still need guidance navigating the new technology. Their classes involve recorded video from teachers, online quizzes and the occasional interactive Zoom call.

"When this all started we were all like, 'Thank God kids aren't affected,'" she said, referring to the coronavirus itself. "But we have to be honest, the kids are not OK."

Many school districts are emphasizing to parents that the learning curve is steep, and some teachers try to

avoid daily deadlines, instead allowing students to go at their own pace.

California high school teacher Susan Binder said the technology can be frustrating and imperfect. Many of the apps elementary schools must now rely on — with names like Seesaw, Epic and IXL — were only intended as a tool to enhance classroom learning or share students' work with parents.

"This is a very crude bandage we're putting on a very big wound. We're just doing the best we can," said Binder, who is using Zoom and Google classroom to teach economics, AP history and government at El Cerito High School, near San Francisco.

She worries this generation of students may end up suffering academically, socially and emotionally.

Kara Illig, a mother of three in Ebensburg, Pa., finally broke down one day last week.

Her fourth-grade son had six English assignments all due at the end of the day. Her second-grade daughter had to build a table that would support a dictionary using only printer paper, cardboard and duct tape. She could barely keep track of their assignments, four different school email accounts, 12 Google livestreams, and her own worries as she transitioned to a new job while working from home.

"I was feeling like a failure. I thought, 'I just can't do this,'" she said.

She posted a message on a private Parent Teacher Organization group on Facebook, asking: "Is anyone else having a hard time keeping up with all of this?"

She added: "My entire Facebook feed is nothing but photos of happy, organized families, sitting together at the kitchen table doing classwork and I can NOT relate." The post immediately got more than 70 replies, most of them supportive, and earned her a call from a slightly irritated school principal, she said. Within days, the district told teachers to no longer assign work with a daily deadline.

"It's just a terrible situation and we're all trying to adapt and survive," Illig said.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Family discoveries under a quarantine microscope

Our family members are the people we know best. Living together makes us intimately familiar with each other's personalities, likes, dislikes, quirks and habits. We know intuitively what the other person is thinking or feeling, without a single spoken word.

I believed all that gibberish — hook, line and sinker — until I spent a month with my family in quarantine. Now I'm wondering, who are these people?

Sheltering in place has revealed minute details we never noticed before. Mannerisms, sensitivities, idiosyncrasies, temperaments, peculiarities, flaws, tendencies, imperfections, weaknesses and obsessions are brought into excruciating focus under the unavoidable microscope of sheltering in place together for weeks on end.

The person who I'm learning the most about is my Navy veteran husband of 27 years. If you'd asked me a month ago to describe Francis, I'd give the same comical commentary I've given for years. I'd mention his keen sense of humor, his unapologetic lack of mechanical skills, his hilarious self-centeredness, his charming charisma, his Italian temper, his penchant for unmanly things like candles and pastel sweaters, and his iron-clad ego. To summarize, I'd jest that Francis is "our lovable narcissist."

However, I never really knew Francis. Ever since the coronavirus crisis locked us into this unwinding house arrest, I realize that, for 27 years, I was too distracted by the minutia of our daily lives to see the far corners of my husband's unique personality.

It all came into focus one day last week, when Francis gathered our daughters, Anna and Lily, and me for an announcement. He sat at the head of the table, cleared his throat and began, "Ladies, I've made a decision. You've all been good during the coronavirus shutdown, so you deserve a treat. Macy's is having an online sale today, so go to their website and get whatever you want." The girls' eyes widened at the thought of trendy outfitts and accessories. My mind flashed with images of home decor.

"You each get fifty dollars for your shopping spree," he said with a self-approving nod, "because you deserve it."

"Only fifty bucks?" I thought, but didn't spoil the fun. Lily's 19-year-old-broke-college-kid face beamed with delight, and Anna, the 22-year-old fashionista, got to the serious business of shopping on a budget.

At the end of the day, Lily, who had inherited my sickness for buying things just because they're on sale, had put 13 clearance items into the Macy's online shopping cart. Anna, on the other hand, carefully selected one pair of pricey designer track pants. I picked a \$20 set of cloth napkins, hoping that Daddy Warbucks would be happy that his little orphans came in under budget.

But I noticed that the Macy's online shopping cart total was more than \$300. How had that happened? It was no surprise that our lovable narcissist had ordered himself a jacket for \$50. But a \$170 porch rocking chair?

That night while trying to sleep, I couldn't make sense of my husband. He announces that he wants to reward us, limits us to \$50 each, buys himself a jacket, AND A ROCKING CHAIR? He says he's treating us, but instead, splurges on himself?

The next day while we were walking the dog, I gingerly approached the subject. "Honey, just curious. Why did you buy that rocking chair?" Completely unaware of how bad it looked, he explained that he'd always wanted one, and besides, it was a good price.

Rather than dig deeper, I took his simple answer at face value and added, "Well, you should have ordered two, because I'll need a place to sit on the porch, too." Although he never acknowledged his original transgression, Francis was embarrassed that he hadn't thought to order two rockers instead of one.

Thanks to Francis' imperfect combination of character traits, we now have two chairs to rock in, side by side. Unfortunately, we won't be rocking anytime soon, because they were delivered in boxes, assembly required.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesofflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesofflife@googlemail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

BARISTA TRAINING DAY

BY JOEL FAGLIANO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Joel Fagliano is the digital puzzles editor for The New York Times and creator of the daily Mini. He sold his first crossword to the paper when he was 17. He graduated from Pomona College in 2014 with a double major in linguistics and 45-Across. Joel says this puzzle is a result of having some extra time at home recently...and of drinking lots of coffee. —WS.

CROSS

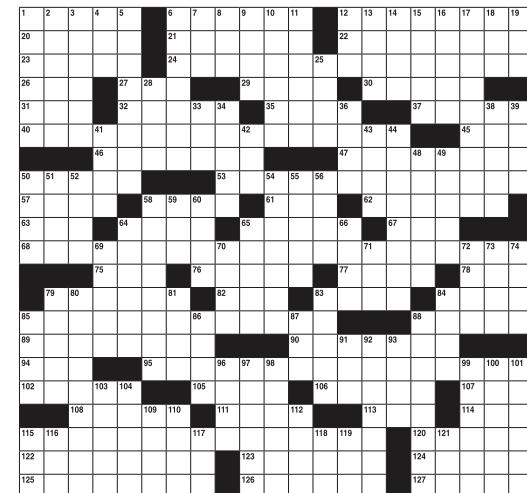
- 1 Book that's out of this world?
- 6 Illuminating point
- 12 Gilda Radner character on "S.N.L."
- 20 Took the plunge
- 21 Ladies' men
- 22 April 22
- 23 Gray with a tinge of brown
- 24 Things got off to a bad start when one trainee tripped and ...
- 26 ___ on the side of
- 27 Father on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"
- 29 Doctor Zhivago, in "Doctor Zhivago,"
- 30 Flock
- 31 Part of a Parisian address
- 32 Roofed patio
- 35 1099-____ (I.R.S. form)
- 37 Company with a Gigafactory
- 40 The carton leaked milk everywhere when another trainee accidentally ...
- 45 ___ sci. college major related to psych
- 46 Kitchen bulk
- 47 Put back in place, as measures

- 50 Overly sentimental
- 53 The drip coffee tasted grainy because they ...
- 57 Company whose Nasdaq symbol is its name
- 58 Having colors in blotches
- 61 Steinbrenner who took over the Yankees in 2010
- 62 Moves like Jagger
- 63 Box-score stat
- 64 It follows more or less
- 65 Draft choice
- 67 Nonkosher meat
- 68 In fact, every cup they served was ...
- 75 Writer Rand
- 76 "This is the worst!"
- 77 Flier for a magic show
- 78 Internet address, in brief
- 79 Lifesavers
- 80 Headed up
- 83 "Oh, so that's how it's going to be!"
- 84 Comfort
- 85 To make matters worse, the espresso machine ...
- 88 Some TVs and cameras
- 89 Fully
- 90 Home to many Berbers
- 94 "Surely you don't mean me!?"
- 95 They worried about their jobs — these mistakes were ...
- 102 Snitches
- 105 Attendee

DOWN

- 1 Makes fit
- 2 Get misty
- 3 Source of bay leaves
- 4 Offering in the Google Play store
- 5 Like ninjas
- 6 Premier League rival of Tottenham Hotspur
- 7 Really stand out
- 8 One-time label for Radiohead
- 9 Depend
- 10 Spreadsheet part
- 11 Log-in need
- 12 Make things interesting, so to speak
- 13 Sounds of satisfaction
- 14 Be in the works

- 15 When you might run away from home
- 16 Info on an invitation
- 17 Player of Ben Wyatt on "Parks and Recreation"
- 18 Unnaturally pale
- 19 Shakespearean affirmatives
- 20 Trade gossip
- 28 ___ Men ("Who Let the Dogs Out" group)
- 33 Purely
- 34 "You win this hand!"
- 36 Valentine's Day purchase
- 38 Takes an "L"
- 39 Constant stress or heavy drinking
- 41 Popular children's book series with hidden objects
- 42 ___ glance
- 43 Grazing spots
- 44 N.Y.C. shopping mecca
- 48 Optical illusion
- 49 Showy feather
- 50 Drudge
- 51 So-called "enclosed" rhyme scheme
- 52 It beats nothing
- 54 Absurd pretense
- 55 Justice nominated by Obama
- 56 Your highness?: Abbr.
- 58 Series of missed calls
- 59 "Do you know who ...?"
- 60 Singer born Eithne Ni Bhraonain
- 64 Team-building activity?

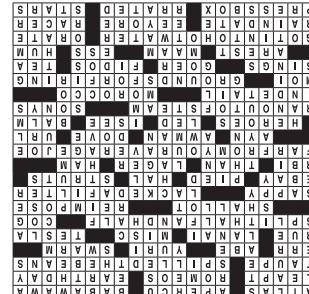


GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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FACES



ANTHONY NESS, HBO/AP

The cast of the hit series "The Sopranos," from left, Tony Sirico, Steve Van Zandt, James Gandolfini, Michael Imperioli and Vincent Pastore. Imperioli and co-star Steve Schirripa, not shown, launched a new podcast about "The Sopranos."

Pandemic can't stop this mob

Stars of hit television series 'The Sopranos' start a podcast

By JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

The coronavirus pandemic almost upended a new podcast about the hit TV series "The Sopranos" before it even started. But hosts and series actors Michael Imperioli and Steve Schirripa said fans pleaded with them to find a way to do it.

They did, and watchers of the award-winning HBO series will be overjoyed that the two "Sopranos" stars are providing insight into the show while listeners are stuck in their homes.

Imperioli said fans had been watching the show during shelter-in-place orders and were hungry for the podcasts. "So Steve and I had a long talk and we thought about it and we found a way to do it really," Imperioli said.

Even a series regular like Schirripa is learning things about the series. "Michael tells me things that I never even knew," he said. "So it's pretty amazing."

One thing listeners have discovered is that there were three final actors vying for the role of Tony Soprano. One was Bruce Springsteen collaborator Steven Van Zandt.

Obviously, James Gandolfini was the star of *Sopranos*, but show creator David Chase found a spot for Van Zandt. "They



Schirripa



Imperioli

wrote in that character, Silvio, for him. There was no Silvio in the original script," Imperioli said.

And what about the third actor? Michael Rispoli was the third finalist and he played Jackie Aprile Sr." Imperioli said.

New episodes of "Talking Sopranos" are available every Monday on various podcast apps or at Simplecast.

While many fans regard "The Sopranos" as one of the best shows ever on television, Imperioli, who played Christopher Moltisanti, wasn't initially sure the mob series would succeed.

He said "it was not easy" to understand what the show was really about from the pilot. He didn't know if it was a spoof or not. "It was hard to really grasp the tone," he explains.

While Imperioli was confused at first, it

didn't take long for him to realize that the show that David Chase created was something magical.

"We got these scripts every two weeks. They kept getting more interesting and more strange and more bizarre and more intricate and more unique," he said.

And along the way, the two hosts share love and admiration for the late Gandolfini and how he led the ensemble cast by example.

"Jim was like the captain. He wasn't the boss. He wasn't the star. 'The Sopranos' was a team both behind the camera and in front of the camera. And I haven't had that experience again, really," Imperioli said.

While Gandolfini often becomes a topic of the weekly conversation, an episode focusing solely on his contributions to the series is not out of the question.

"I was thinking about — maybe I was going to bring it up with you, Steve. Maybe there's room for just an episode to really delve into that," Imperioli told his colleague.

"That would be great. He was such a good guy. As good an actor, he was, he was a better guy, generous guy," Schirripa responded.

The 51-year-old Gandolfini died of a heart attack in 2013 while vacationing in Italy.

People historic anniversary cover features Hawn, Hudson

Three generations will grace the cover of People magazine's 30th anniversary "Beauty Issue."

Goldie Hawn, her daughter Kate Hudson and granddaughter Rani Rose Fujikawa will appear on the cover of the issue, released Friday. It's the first time three generations will be the cover feature in the 30-year history of the "Beauty Issue."

The cover story touches on several topics, including Hawn and Hudson's style choices to parenting.

Hawn and Hudson talked about their family's unbreakable bond, even during the lockdown prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Hawn, 74, said she has been getting through the coronavirus pandemic with her partner of 37 years, Kurt Russell with "meditation, nurturing, loving kindness for all in my heart and staying safe inside."

Gayle King starts call-in show to hear coronavirus stories

CBS News' Gayle King says she's starting a temporary satellite radio program because she wants to hear how Americans are coping with lockdowns and social distancing measures.

She's been broadcasting her "CBS This Morning" show from her Manhattan home and talked about the isolation caused by the pandemic. She wants to hear the stories of others dealing with loneliness, the stress of home schooling and managing stress.

"These are such surreal times," she said. "I look forward to hearing how everybody's feeling and thinking. How do we navigate the uncertainty of this moment? As unsettling as this is, I believe we'll make it through."

Film chronicling Whitney Houston's life in the works

A feature film about Whitney Houston's life is in the works from the screenwriter of "Bohemian Rhapsody." The biopic is being shepherded by the Whitney Houston Estate, music producer Clive Davis and Primary Wave Music, the partners said Wednesday.

"I Wanna Dance with Somebody" will follow Houston from obscurity to pop stardom and promises to be "frank about the price that superstardom exacted," according to the announcement.

Stella Meghie is in "advanced talks" to direct. Meghie most recently directed "The Photograph" with Issa Rae and LaKeith Stanfield. The project does not have a studio or distribution yet.

A24 to auction paraphernalia to benefit NYC charities

How does an indie film shop give back to its hometown in this crisis? If you're A24, you start by mining your prop, wardrobe and set departments.

The studio behind films like "Midsummer" and "Uncut Gems" said Wednesday that it is auctioning off some of its most famous movie paraphernalia, from the flowery May Queen dress that Florence Pugh wore in "Midsummer" to Kevin Garnett's Boston Celtics jersey from "Uncut Gems." All proceeds from A24 Auctions will go to one of four charities helping frontline workers and hard-hit communities: The FDNY Foundation; The Food Bank For NYC; NYC Health + Hospitals; and the Queens Community House.

Compiled by wire services



Hawn and Hudson

While many fans regard "The Sopranos" as one of the best shows ever on television, Michael Imperioli, who played Christopher Moltisanti, wasn't initially sure the mob series would succeed.


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OPINION

How to avoid a pandemic Patriot Act

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

The last time America faced a big, hard-to-track threat, we ended up with the Patriot Act and a mass-surveillance program that still rankles. This time, how do we use technology to combat COVID-19 without creating elements of a police state?

Technology ought to be our best weapon in maintaining public health as the United States transitions back to work. High-tech testing can identify who had the virus (and is more likely to be "safe" now), who's most vulnerable to infection as the country opens up. Contact tracing can help minimize second and third bounces of the virus — while we all wait for the vaccine, that hopefully sometime next year, will bring some real relief.

This transition is doable. The tools are in our hands, literally, in the cellphones most Americans carry. The two giants of cellular telephony, Google and Apple, have already created a joint contact-tracing technology that would live on our Android and iPhone devices.

Our phones could also coordinate the rapid and robust antibody testing program we need. They could connect us quickly with screeners and testers to arrange fast drive-through testing (bypassing traditional laboratory bureaucracy that is overwhelmed and slow to respond). And soon after we're tested, we could receive a digital QR-coded certification, like an airplane boarding pass or an electronic ticket to a sports event, that could be used by employers and service providers to help ensure safe workplaces.

But nothing is easy in America, these

days. The anti-lockdown protesters in states like Ohio and Michigan who are demanding to reopen the country quickly may be reluctant to provide the very data that might help them go back to work safely. Their privacy worries are widely shared. Americans have a gut belief: Live free or die.

Tech companies want to help, but they aren't sure how. Even as they create data-monitoring tools, they seem reluctant to allow governments to use the information. As Stewart Baker, a former general counsel at the National Security Agency, noted in Lawfare last week: "Silicon Valley is in love with a 'trust no one' approach to security" that makes Apple and Google reluctant to share cellphone data with the public-health authorities that need it most.

The challenge, in the coming back-to-work transition, will be creating an environment that restores jobs and also keeps people safe, without crossing privacy red lines. As technologist Marc Andreessen put it in a recent essay, "the problem is inertia." Rather than continuing to blame game, the country needs to unite around the idea that "it's time to build."

Let's start with the first step back, which is the public-health puzzle: How do we fight what President Donald Trump calls the "invisible enemy" without creating a "Patriot Pathogen Act" that grossly comprises civil liberties? How do we avoid the mistakes of the post-9/11 surveillance state?

What's needed is a trusted national intermediary that can coordinate public and private efforts better than this administration seems able or willing to do. One good candidate would be the National Academy of Sciences, as proposed by Glenn Gerstell, another former NSA general counsel.

The academy could help coordinate public health authorities at the federal, state and local level. It could connect doctors and hospitals through their national associations in a coherent national testing program. It could act as a fiduciary to collect testing and contact-tracing information.

China shows how surveillance technology can help restart a country, at the cost of freedom. Dr. William A. Haseltine, a prominent health researcher, described in an email last month how China has managed the transition from lockdown using a color-coded system that's part of a "We Chat" app on everyone's phone. If your code registers green at the doorways of stores and restaurants, you're free to enter. Otherwise, forget it.

America doesn't want to be China. But we need a framework that allows us to use technology to recover from economic paralysis. Tracing and tracking using cellphones will not be silver bullets for COVID-19, but they will help. Augmenting our current slow testing regimen with immediate-result antibody tests is a vital step. There will be gaps, and statisticians will have to make inferences based on limited data, stresses Sean Roche, a former top technology officer at the CIA who's advising nonprofits and companies on digital technology issues. Certainly, we'll need rules for how data is collected, how it's anonymized, when it is used and how long it's kept. But we need to get started, now.

It's crazy for America to seem so disoriented and powerless this far into the pandemic. The tools are there, if we have the good sense to use them wisely. The real "invisible enemy" is our own breakdown of trust, self-confidence and leadership — all fixable, if we get serious about recovery.

Supporting veterans during the pandemic

By MARK GRAHAM
Special to Stars and Stripes

The coronavirus pandemic brings an unprecedented time in our history and personal experience. Among the veteran community, there have been over 300 reported deaths due to the virus, causing many to be experiencing a variety of emotions and concern for what the future holds, with the added stress or loneliness while maintaining social isolation.

The good news is that now, more than ever, we are seeing communities come together in this time of physical distance.

Though, as the weeks of mandated quarantine measures carry on, anxieties and financial worries are bubbling up among the veteran population. The Bob Woodruff Foundation published an original research paper this month which determined that a "large number of veterans are likely to become unemployed at rates that could exceed the highest level of veteran unemployment in the post-9/11 era. A significant portion of veterans within the workforce are employed in the industries most likely to experience immediate layoffs."

The paper's findings also expanded on the mental health implications of the current crisis, saying "...emergent trauma, loneliness due to social isolation, and unplanned wage loss or job termination can create or exacerbate mental health challenges for veterans."

While the pandemic itself may be unprecedented, those that support the military veteran community are familiar with stepping up to provide immediate and long-term support plans.

Experience has trained us to confront

unique challenges head on, and it is important that veterans and their families know they are not alone. While there may be bumpy roads ahead for some, their challenges do not spiral into crisis.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017 along the Gulf Coast, where 13 million people were affected, and nearly 135,000 homes damaged or destroyed, there was a vital need for communities to come together to support the most vulnerable populations impacted by the catastrophic event.

Among those affected, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated over half a million veterans were impacted by the hurricane, and emergency measures went into effect to respond to the immediate need for resources.

Still today, nearly three years later, veteran service organizations like Vets4Warriors, Combined Arms, and the Mission Continues are addressing the existing need to provide peer support, community resources and rebuilding initiatives for Harvey-impacted veterans whose lives were turned upside down in an instant.

Organizations like our 24/7 peer support network, Vets4Warriors, were built on the belief that, through the power of connection, there is no problem that cannot be solved and no challenge that cannot be overcome.

When it comes to the military veteran community, we provide support whenever they confront an issue, wherever they are in the world. We are with them all the way. And we will be with those impacted by COVID-19 all the way.

The challenges Harvey-impacted veterans are facing are not dissimilar to what we are seeing unfold amid the COVID-19 pan-

demic: financial burdens, mental health struggles and a need for camaraderie.

In fact, these are some of the most common reasons our veteran peers receive calls from the military veteran community across the country. Only now, these challenges are exacerbated by a critical event that may get worse before it gets better.

For instance, as social isolation increases, often anxiety increases as well.

And while we may not always be able to be in close proximity to one another, we are still able to communicate. That is why we recommend our military veteran community take time out of their day to call a friend or family member, or send a message to someone they haven't talked to in a while. Plus, they can always reach out to a Vets4Warriors peer.

Many in the military veteran community are concerned about the financial burdens they are facing, and our organization is structured to connect veterans with needed resources that can be of help.

Our peers are also always available to talk — 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Peers will speak, confidentially, about coping tactics and additional stress management techniques that can be utilized in the short-term.

For the long-term, our goal is to ensure that issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic do not reach a point of crisis. We will connect veterans and their families to the resources they need and stay with them all the way.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Mark Graham is executive director of Vets4Warriors, a national 24/7 peer support network for veteran and military communities. He is also a speaker at training of veterans and members of the military community, their families or caregivers.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other state-side syndicates.

Looking ahead 10 years after Deepwater Horizon explosion *The Advocate*

The traumatic events of the explosion and massive oil spill ensuing off the coast of Louisiana 10 years ago are hardly forgotten.

Most of all, of course, the families of 11 men killed working on the Deepwater Horizon platform — another 17 were injured — had their lives forever altered in that moment of horror.

Those were not the only families affected.

Such a massive spill damaged the coast of our state. Then-Gov. Bobby Jindal mobilized a major operation to try to protect the coastline and wildlife. Thousands of workers and volunteers helped.

The images of birds coated in oil made an indelible impression upon the American public and that of the rest of the world, as did video of oil still spewing out many days later.

The economic impact on our region was serious, with a decline in tourism and even people curtailing purchases of seafood.

Afterward, there was the inevitable consequence of things going very badly: a government reorganization.

A new bureau in the U.S. Department of the Interior was created, safety procedures changed, a moratorium on offshore production was declared by the Obama administration.

And just as inevitably, there were debates over the debate: Workers in the Gulf oil regions felt they were being penalized by BP's mistakes, companies criticized revisions in safety procedures.

And the latter debates continue today, with environmentalists arguing that the Trump administration has further eroded the complex safety rules that underlie oil and gas production in offshore.

For those with shorter memories, the way that the oil disaster is most frequently seen in the news is in the payoffs of billions of dollars of governments as well as non-profits in civil and criminal penalties levied on BP and other responsible companies.

Those are long-lasting, in that the payments are large.

Those payments have begun and will fund coastal protection and restoration efforts for some years to come.

That may be a lasting legacy of the events of a decade ago, although benefits that were purchased at the cost of lives and huge environmental and economic consequences.

Louisiana remains at the epicenter of oil and gas exploration, even if recent events have driven prices for those commodities to lows not seen in decades.

And Louisiana's coastline continues to be a rich and varied economic and environmental asset for fisheries and tourism, even if recent events involving coronavirus outbreaks have also sharply diminished those activities as well.

We see two permanent lessons.

One is that economic progress, while important, cannot override safety for humans or for the environment we hold in trust for future generations.

Another is that Louisiana's coast and its heritage is worth saving, and while the BP settlement pays for a lot, it's not enough. America paid attention 10 years ago.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Beach cleaners funded with money from BP after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill operate at dawn last month in Orange Beach, Ala. As oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico from a blown-out BP well in 2010, residents wondered whether their home would ever be the same. The Deepwater Horizon disaster changed the region, with a flood of spending altering landscapes and attitudes.

Let's hope the U.S. government continues to help, a lot, in future years.

Listen to protesters, but don't incite reckless behavior *The Washington Post*

Public fatigue with stay-at-home orders to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic is inevitable and understandable. Not understandable, nor forgivable, is the president of the United States inciting disrespect for his own government's guidelines, which are unquestionably essential for the public health.

Relatively small protests have broken out in the United States in recent days against the strictures designed to slow the spreading virus. People have a right to protest, if they conduct themselves without endangering others. But leaders have an obligation to point out that the behavior the protesters are encouraging could reignite the virus and cost lives.

Tens of millions of Americans in recent weeks have willingly complied with stay-at-home guidelines put out by President Donald Trump and by governors, a commendable showing of cohesion and collective good judgment. For many, it came at a steep personal sacrifice. Next will be hard choices about reopening.

Doing so too soon risks reigniting a firestorm that has already cost more than 168,000 lives globally. Opening must be done with special protections, testing and data, as Mr. Trump's own phased-in guidelines would suggest.

The protesters carried signs such as "Live Free or Die in Lockdown" and "Re-Open Now." Some of them set a bad example, without masks or social distancing. But what was most concerning was the message that somehow all this sacrifice can be quickly abandoned in the name of liberty and rights. This is wrong.

The pursuit of liberty does not mean a license to endanger the lives of others.

Mr. Trump was exceedingly reckless to incite protests with three tweets on Friday saying "LIBERATE" Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia, all of which have Democratic governors.

He undermined his own published public health guidelines and his own re-opening plan. His message threatens to destroy broader public confidence in the reasons for the social distancing and mitigation strategies. His comments could inspire additional disobedience and spark new outbreaks and another round of restrictions that would be even harder to impose.

the pandemic. Only last week did OSHA put a priority on investigating health care facilities for complaints about coronavirus safety procedures, while effectively giving a free pass to some of the nation's largest employers. Without a clear set of rules to follow, employers are making them up as they go.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued sensible guidelines on the federal level that can protect workers, such as standards for social distancing, sanitizing stations and using masks in the workplace. But OSHA hasn't made the guidelines mandatory for workplaces — the CDC itself doesn't enforce them — nor has OSHA adopted other new rules that could help ensure worker safety during the pandemic. It should do so now. Requiring businesses to follow the CDC's guidelines would allow OSHA to enforce them with inspections and fines.

Instead, a patchwork of rules — led primarily by governors in New York, Washington state and California — serve as an unsatisfactory substitute by mandating masks in all public settings and the use of other protective measures. But these haven't been aimed specifically at workplaces, many of which need more guidance.

OSHA said its prior rules for worker safety apply during the pandemic, though the agency last week did give agents leeway to investigate coronavirus claims so long as they were confined to health care facilities and met certain other criteria.

In a statement to The New York Times, OSHA said that "employers are, and will continue to be, responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace" and that it can respond to formal complaints where a worker is killed or seriously injured on the job, known as the General Duty clause. The agency's COVID-19 guidance for employers, however, acknowledges upfront it "is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no new legal obligations."

In the meantime, OSHA offices are fielding thousands of coronavirus complaints but don't have the wherewithal to investigate them. In Oregon alone, by early this month the local OSHA office had received 2,747 complaints about workplace conditions but had issued zero citations, the top local administrator told The Portland Tribune. OSHA told a lawyer representing an Illinois Walmart worker who died after contracting the coronavirus that "OSHA does not have any jurisdiction or enforcing anything related to COVID-19 at this time," according to The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

As part of an advisory last week, OSHA indicated companies should conduct their own investigations and report back to the agency.

OSHA also can and should go beyond CDC guidelines to require measures such as staggered shifts and lunch breaks and construction of barriers to protect employees in jobs like manufacturing and meatpacking that require close quarters. And it should carefully evaluate updated CDC guidelines that permit employers to bring some workers back to the job after potential COVID-19 exposure before a two-week quarantine. Some say the new policy, meant to keep essential businesses running, risks re-exposing workers. Minnesota's Department of Health, by contrast, has maintained a recommendation for a 14-day quarantine for workers after exposure.

Companies may say new rules would be onerous and expensive, but the cost of prolonging the coronavirus's spread can be far more costly.

OSHA has taken steps to protect health care workers by prioritizing inspections of hospitals and other "high risk" facilities. But during the pandemic, warehouses and slaughterhouses, city buses and grocery stores have become high-risk facilities, too. If the spread of the disease is to slow, millions of workers deserve far better protection.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Search on for possible escaped exotic cat

NM RIO RANCHO — New Mexico officials are searching for a possible escaped exotic cat in an Albuquerque, N.M., suburb.

KRQE-TV reported New Mexico Department of Game and Fish said it's investigating reports of an escaped serval from a Rio Rancho home.

Animal control reportedly captured a cat said to be a Savannah cat — a cross between a serval and another breed. But it's unclear if it is the same feline officials sought.

Game and Fish officials say they are still investigating.

Track to adopt out dogs after ending racing

AL BIRMINGHAM — An Alabama race course will need to find homes for more than 500 dogs after discontinuing live greyhound racing at the venue, officials said.

The Jefferson County Racing Association announced that it would no longer hold live greyhound races at the Birmingham Race Course, citing declining revenue and interest in the event, WVTF-TV reported.

While some of the greyhounds could go on to race at other tracks, Kim Keefer with the racing association said officials would be initiating a "massive" adoption and placement effort in the coming months to try and find homes for about 550 dogs that would remain.

Officer, senior citizens treated for bee stings

AZ MESA — A Mesa police officer was among four people treated for multiple bee stings at a senior living facility, authorities said.

Mesa Fire Department officials said crews were called to Fellowship Square after a report of a bee attack.

They said three senior citizens were taken to a hospital for treatment while the police officer was treated at the scene.

Residents of the facility were asked to shelter in place while a pest elimination crew removed the bees.

Farm 'devastated' by fire at large egg farm

OH CROTON — Authorities said a fast-moving fire at a large egg farm in Ohio destroyed one large building and also killed hens in other buildings.

The blaze reported at the Trillium Farms facility in Croton sent flames shooting high into the sky.

Chief Mike Richardson of the Hartford Volunteer Fire Department told the Newark Advocate that the flames destroyed one building that was about 300 feet long and damaged another. He said all chickens were lost in one building and some chickens were lost in two other buildings due to exposure.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Earth Day display

People walk past an Earth sculpture Tuesday at Thea's Park in Tacoma, Wash., with the WestRock Paper Mill in the background. Wednesday marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, an observance that helped spur activism against air and water pollution and disappearing plants and animals.

Meeting 'Zoom-bombed' with child abuse images

CT NEW HAVEN — A Connecticut city's public Zoom meeting was interrupted by a person showing material depicting child abuse, throwing council members into a fit about how to secure meetings going forward.

Participants in the videoconference before the New Haven Board of Alders were stunned and disgusted by the display, the New Haven Register reported.

The Register added that anonymous users disrupting meetings with vulgar displays have been dubbed "Zoom-bombers."

Police arrest 30 for soliciting minors

VA FAIRFAX — An online sting operation in northern Virginia resulted in the arrests of 30 men charged with trolling the internet to solicit sex from minors, authorities said.

Fairfax County Police called the sting Operation COVID Crackdown. They said school closures and stay-at-home orders to combat the coronavirus have increased children's online presence and their vulnerability to exploitation along with it.

Police said the men who were arrested went online to initiate

THE CENSUS

4.98

The grade point average of Craig McFarland, who was accepted to all eight Ivy League schools. McFarland, a student at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, Fla., isn't sure which university he'll attend. He heard from Yale first. Then the other acceptance letters poured in: Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Brown, Dartmouth and Cornell. McFarland plans to study medicine or law.

explicit conversations and solicit sex from police officers posing as children. Each of the suspects agreed to meet their targets in person at specified locations. Detectives arrested the men when they showed up.

The men ranged in age from 20 to 74, and are facing a combined 68 felonies.

Stellar sea lion to give birth at sea life center

AK KENAI — A female Stellar sea lion at the Alaska SeaLife Center is pregnant and expected to give birth within months, officials said.

The sea lion named Mara would be only the second of her species to give birth at the center in Seward, The Peninsula Clarion reported.

Mara will not be used to breed again because she is now 17 and most Stellar sea lions normally live to their early 20s in captivity, SeaLife Center Husbandry Di-

rector Lisa Hartman said.

The father is a 10-year-old at the center named Pilot.

The SeaLife Center, one of three aquaria in North America housing Stellar sea lions, previously hosted four other births, all from a female named Eden that now resides at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut.

Man charged in robbery of drive-thru

FL MIAMI — Police charged a Florida man with robbing a McDonald's through its drive-thru window.

Angel Torres Peraza, 37, was pulled over in an unrelated traffic stop in Miami when officers learned about the robbery at the restaurant in Hialeah less than an hour earlier, news outlets reported. His car matched the description of the robbery vehicle, they said.

Police then brought the McDonald's cashier from Hialeah to

the traffic stop, and he identified Peraza as the robber.

Peraza is accused of demanding cash while threatening to shoot the McDonald's cashier "in the face" if he didn't comply, the Miami Herald reported.

Man accused of hiring men to beat up wife

WA VANCOUVER — A Vancouver man was accused of hiring two men to beat up his estranged wife after she had him served with a no-contact order.

The plan was stymied when the men tipped her off, documents said. Edgar Gonzalez-Gomez appeared in Clark County Superior Court on suspicion of criminal solicitation, The Columbian reported.

The woman served Gonzalez-Gomez with a no-contact order April 7. One week later, she was sitting in her car when she saw an unknown man walk by several times before tapping on her window, asking her name and then telling her about the plan, saying he wouldn't do it, a probable cause affidavit said.

He then let her hear a recording of Gonzalez-Gomez describing in Spanish what he wanted done to her, according to court records.

From wire reports

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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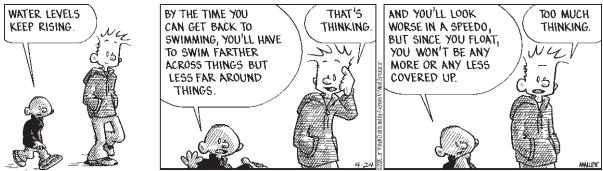
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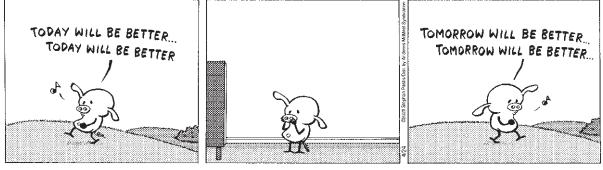
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



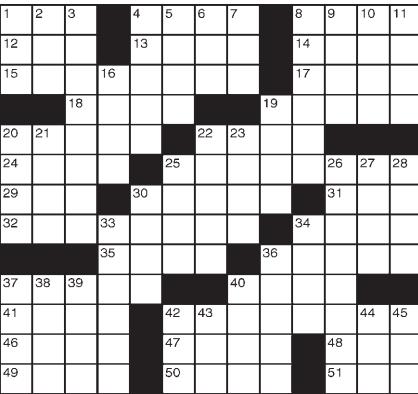
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

**Eugene Sheffer Crossword****ACROSS**

- 1 PC alternative
- 4 Baseball stats
- 8 Pizzazz
- 12 Punk rock offshoot
- 13 Roughly
- 14 Utah ski resort
- 15 Parrot variety
- 17 FBI guy
- 18 Grade sch.
- 19 Easy gaits
- 20 "Thor" actor Elba
- 22 Swiss artist Paul
- 24 Hardy lass
- 25 Relaxed
- 29 Tempe sch.
- 30 Tender spots
- 31 Feathery necklace
- 32 Ant-chipping sticks
- 34 Addict
- 35 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 36 Valerie Harper sitcom
- 37 Lose a starring contest
- 40 Tart
- 41 Protracted
- 42 Kid's meal carrier
- 46 Start of a spell
- 47 Author Dinesen
- 48 Rock's Brian
- 49 Cad
- 50 Pooches
- 51 "Cock-a-doodle—!"

DOWN

- 1 Actor Gibson
- 2 "I love," to Livy
- 3 Conceals, as a crime
- 4 Judicial garb
- 5 Edge
- 6 Leb, neighbor
- 7 Turf
- 8 Capital of Croatia
- 9 Ticklish Muppet
- 10 Sports figure?
- 11 Catches some rays
- 16 Yale students
- 19 Turner and Danson
- 20 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 21 He loved Lucy
- 22 Fate

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	E	L	T	B	U	N	I	S	L	A
O	M	A	R	L	A	I	K	S	I	N
M	I	M	I	A	R	B	A	Y	E	S
S	T	A	N	D	S	B	L	A	B	C
3	7	2	6	5	4	9	8	10	11	12
K	E	T	T	L	E	C	O	R	N	H
S	U	R	E	R	X	E	X	I	I	I
E	T	A	T	M	S	F	E	S	T	E
R	I	P	A	S	E	A	S	E	S	E
F	L	U	G	E	L	H	O	R	N	H
N	E	A	T	P	R	A	Y	E	R	R
B	O	Z	O	E	N	T	O	R	E	R
R	U	E	D	E	E	I	W	I	N	E
R	I	L	E	S	O	D	C	L	E	O

4-24

CRYPTOQUIP

M X E V B S W K S Q X N
 I B K Z W J A W K I W Z S L X S
 I B A N E H B N N B U U L W K X
 E D A F F W D J A Q S Z X M X K E :

D W - V W D I A Z Z Q B K Z .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT EVEN-TEMPERED GUY REALLY LONGS FOR MORE PRESSURE IN HIS LIFE. HE IS STARVED FOR TENSION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P

Frazz



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Dilbert



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Non Sequitur



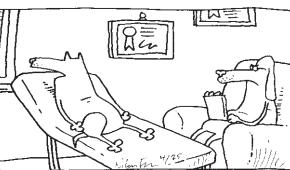
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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14		
15					16				17		
18					19			20			
					21	22		23	24		
										29	30
25	26	27						28		31	
32									33		
34						35	36				
						37			38		
39	40	41				42	43			44	45
48					49					50	
51					52					53	
54					55					56	

ACROSS

- 1 Touste
5 Mast
9 Anderson
Cooper's channel
12 Vivacity, in music
13 Untamed
14 Nonclerical
15 1946 song
" — in Calico"
16 Actor Omar
17 Paris summer
19 Botanist Gray
20 Booty
21 "Spring ahead" hrs.
23 Hit CBS series
25 Dust particles
28 Find not guilty
32 "Like It"
33 Pound fraction
34 Spanish dish
36 Moved effortlessly
37 World Cup cheer
38 Toss in
39 Scoff
42 "Smoking or —?"
44 Leak out slowly
48 Squid squirt
49 Look after
50 Shoppe description
51 Russian jet
52 Indy event
53 Pond growth

DOWN

- 1 Many corp.
recruits
2 Desire
3 Thailand, once
4 Single-toned,
as wallpaper
5 Workout wear
6 Gladys Knight's backup
7 Llama's cousin
8 Hwy.
9 Nile queen,
familiarly
10 Post-WWII alliance
11 Russian refusal
20 Bottled dish cleaner
22 Cranium

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	C	R	B	I	S	Z	E	T
E	M	O	O	R	S	O	A	L	A
L	O	V	E	B	I	R	D	G	M
A	S	E	T	E	L	E	M	T	R
S	U	N	D	M	E	R	O	T	S
T	E	S	S	E	L	K	E		
E	S	S	T	E	L	I	D		
A	S	S	E	S	A	I	B		
S	U	N	D	S	O	R	A		
T	E	S	T	E	L	A	D		

4-25

CRYPTOQUIP

K Z D W Q L D E N M A T V M D U

W D F M E D W Q L F Z K L K E V D

N M U K Q O E J V Q A M , K N ' E R M M L

U Q L M R T Z Q A J M Q Z D R R Q N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BAD POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD FOLLOW WHEN A DRUMMER QUILTS A BAND: RE-PERCUSIONS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M



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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

College sports will take the slow road back

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

While professional sports leagues can ponder plans to isolate their athletes from the new coronavirus and have them play in unusual, even secluded places, college sports have no such option.

Pro sports leagues can get creative with solutions to save their multibillion-dollar businesses. College sports will take a slower road back.

"The most at-risk sport of starting up again, in my opinion, is collegiate athletics," said A.J. Maestas, the CEO of Navigate Research, which consults with professional sports leagues and college conferences. "There is less of an incentive and less alignment with the ultimate mission of the entity they work at, live at, that fund them."

The commissioners of the 10 Bowl Subdivision conferences made it clear to Vice President Mike Pence last week: There cannot be college sports played if campuses are not open. If university leaders do not deem it safe for students to return to classrooms and dorms, locker rooms and practice fields will also remain closed.

As big as the business of college sports is, it is dwarfed by the business of higher education. For example: The University of Alabama's budget in fiscal 2018 was \$1.03 billion. Its athletic budget in 2018-19 was \$164 million.

"You think of all the stakeholders and constituents in the collegiate space and all the missions they're meant to serve in. This sports thing is like 3% of their budget," Maestas said.

Colleges and universities, for the most part, have been quicker than governments in enacting measures to slow the spread of the virus. They sent students home, extended spring breaks and shifted to online classes weeks before widespread bans of large gatherings and stay-at-home orders by governors and mayors.

Even before the NCAA canceled its basketball tournaments and spring sports March 12, schools were shuttering campuses.

Fast forward to the fall, when the hope is many businesses and routine parts of daily life will be operating again, even if not back to business as usual. That doesn't mean colleges will be rushing to get students on campus. If they were first to shut down, they could also be among the last to reopen and it will be university presidents,

DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Indiana linebacker Thomas Allen, right, had season-ending surgery on his left shoulder in November, and his rehabilitation changed dramatically when the pandemic led to the suspension of athletic activities at Indiana.



TONY DING/AP

Fans cheer as Michigan's football team takes the field at Michigan Stadium against Wisconsin on Oct. 13, 2018. Pro sports can get creative with solutions to save their multibillion-dollar businesses. College sports will likely take a slower road back.

not the NCAA, making those decisions.

Schools would take a significant financial hit by continuing to operate online only, but balance that against the legal and ethical liability they could face by being the catalyst for re igniting an outbreak.

"I think they do have to be conservative in how they approach this," said attorney Tim Nevius, a former college baseball player and NCAA investigator who now represents and advocates for college athletes.

If come September, the students are physically going back to school, even then there will be hurdles to clear for football to start.

"Large gatherings of people are going to be the last thing we check off the box," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said last week when asked about Ohio State football games.

So play without fans?

"It isn't appropriate for us to play college

'It isn't appropriate for us to play college football without fans.'

Jim Phillips
Northwestern AD

football without fans. If that were the case, it would mean there would be major reservations about group gatherings," Northwestern athletic director Jim Phillips said on the Paul Finebaum Show, echoing a sentiment that is also becoming popular among administrators.

Commissioners and athletic directors have stressed the importance of collaboration across conferences and starting any season at once. But the public health crisis is not playing out the same everywhere. Within 24 hours this week the president of the University of Connecticut said he was personally pessimistic about the return of fall sports while the University of Missouri System president Mun Choi said he expects in-person classes to resume this fall.

In professional sports, players are well-paid and unionized. Essentially, they are business partners with the leagues. Players have to sign off on any return-to-play plan, and they might be motivated to take some risk to get paid.

In college sports, the relationship between the players and the schools, administrators and coaches is almost paternal.

"In framing it that way it restricts athletes' rights," Nevius said. "So it prevents

them from being considered employees. It reduces their economic rights. It frames things so that the athletes also think that they are in this caretaker environment so they have to rely upon the coaches and the schools to advance their rights."

"But that is not always the case with the big business of college sports," Nevius added.

Later this week, the NCAA is scheduled to reveal some details of a plan to begin allowing college athletes to be compensated for use of their names, images and likenesses. The earliest it would go into effect is 2021-22.

Yes, college football players with professional aspirations have much to gain by playing. But not paychecks. And their scholarships are good whether they play or not.

"College sports are theoretically intended to exist to enhance that academic experience of its athletes," Nevius said. "And the NCAA repeatedly says that publicly and in defense of lawsuits as well. We've seen over time decisions made that completely contradict that. This is another test with respect to that philosophy."

Coronavirus puts crimp into injury rehab

By CLIFF BRUNT AND MITCH STACY
Associated Press

Under normal circumstances, you would almost have to force Indiana linebacker Thomas Allen out of his school's athletic facilities.

Allen had season-ending surgery on his left shoulder in November, and his dedicated rehabilitation led him to recently declare himself 85% to 90% healthy even though he was restricted to individual workouts when spring practice began in March.

His recovery plan changed dramatically when the coronavirus pandemic shut down campuses and college sports. He is among many football players across the country recovering from injuries who have limited access to top-tier equipment and one-on-one help. Some experts say those issues

could lengthen recovery times and put athletes at risk of re-injury.

Allen has no access to campus facilities and he is working only twice a week with team trainers who can't physically touch him. Much of his care has been outsourced to an outside clinic. The rest of his work is done at home.

"If we didn't have what's going on now, you'd be with them (trainers) basically 24-7," Allen said. "The longer you're in there, the sooner you get back on the field. So you're doing some things at home without blowing up your shoulder."

Dr. Kevin Wilk, the associate clinical director for Champion Sports Medicine in Birmingham, Ala., has helped Michael Jordan, Bo Jackson, Drew Brees, Derek Jeter and others recover from injuries. Wilk is using telehealth — basically long-distance clinical health care — for the first

time in his three-decade career, and it is frustrating.

"I'm old-school," he said "I've got to see you, I've got to talk to you eye to eye, not through the phone so I can read if you're telling me the truth or not. I want to see you do great. Let me put my hands on you. Let me see you move."

Texas quarterback Sam Ehlinger had been shut down during winter conditioning after he aggravated a rib injury. A recent checkup was a little different.

"He had a Zoom conference with the physician last week, and she was telling him, 'Push here, push there, how does that feel? What are you feeling?'" Texas coach Tom Herman said. "So that was interesting and again unique because the injury is really kind of a pain tolerance. You know when those things heal because they stop hurting."



OLYMPICS

Davis, US boxers remain committed

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Keyshawn Davis took several weeks to choose his path to boxing stardom after the Tokyo Olympics were postponed.

Thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, the top professional prospect on the U.S. Olympic qualification team was suddenly facing nearly a year without an amateur fight that mattered.

He could wait up to 16 months for his shot at gold in Tokyo, or he could accept one of several lucrative offers to begin his professional career immediately.

When Davis began his deliberation, the 21-year-old lightweight was leaning toward the pros. After speaking to family, coaches and his fellow fighters, he decided to keep his Olympic flame burning.

"It's just hard to say no to the Olympics," Davis said from his home in Virginia. "That's like passing up a deal right in front of your face that makes a lot of sense."

Every member of the U.S. team agrees so far. Even with an extra year to wait, Davis and his 12 teammates are all still focused on Tokyo and the rewards of the Olympic experience.

The Olympic postponement could have caused upheaval for

many Western nations' teams in an amateur sport that frequently loses its brightest talents to the pros, even in normal Olympic cycles. But U.S. head coach Billy Walsh has managed to keep his whole team together for 2021 by selling his boxers on the promise of brighter pro futures if they show a little patience.

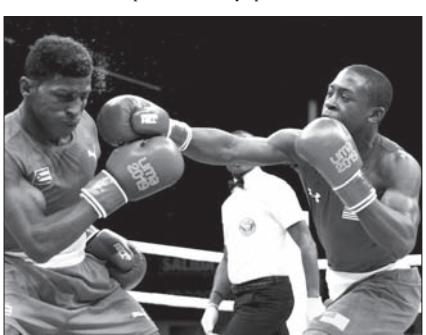
"We've always had that challenge," said Walsh, the Irish coach who has restored the fractious U.S. program to respectability in his five years in charge. "Since I came here, we've turned that around a piece. We've given the guys the vision of first becoming an Olympic champion, as all the greats did back in the day, and using that for a platform to launch your professional career."

After decades of the pro game's predation and innumerable scandals, amateur boxing is no longer the marquee Olympic event that catapulted Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay), Sugar Ray Leonard and Oscar De La Hoya to athletic superstardom.

Yet Olympic experience still turns heads within the sport — and it remains an enormously valuable commodity to boxing promoters, who pay higher prices for fighters they can promote with "Olympian" perpetually affixed to them like a new first name.

And if a boxer manages to come home with gold, the game changes even more. Just ask two-time gold medalists Vasyl Lomachenko or Claressa Shields, who established thriving pro careers and claimed world title belts within months of their Olympic triumphs.

"You can go now, and you're going to have to take 20-odd fights to fight for a world title," Walsh told his fighters recently. "You go get an Olympic gold, or if you have those Olympic rings on your shoulder, that will fast-track you to world title fights. You're a name. You're known. You're an Olympian."



MARTIN MEJIA/AP

The United States' Keyshawn Davis, right, hits Cuba's Andy Cruz during their men's light welterweight final at the Pan American Games on Aug. 2 in Lima, Peru. Even with an extra year to wait, Davis and his 12 teammates are all still focused on Tokyo and the rewards of the Olympic experience.



PHOTOS BY JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Olympic pole vaulting silver medalist Sandi Morris runs on the vaulting runway she is building with her father in Greenville, S.C. Morris didn't have a place to practice and plenty of down time due to the coronavirus pandemic. So she and her father are constructing their own pole vault setup.

Project runway

Morris building own pole vault setup

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

Sandi Morris set the bar high with her latest do-it-yourself project.

Soon, she will be clearing it, too. The Olympic pole vault silver medalist didn't have a place to practice and plenty of down time due to the coronavirus pandemic. So she and her father constructed their own pole vault setup near Greenville, S.C.

Built out of plywood, the 120-foot runway is situated between a soccer field and a tennis court on neighborhood land two blocks from her parents' place. Their pole vault project could be operational as soon as this weekend (they just need the landing mat to arrive).

Viewing is definitely encouraged — from windows for now (social distancing and all).

"There are tons of houses that can see the field from their windows," said the 27-year-old Morris, who usually trains in Fayetteville, Ark., but traveled home to start the project with the Tokyo Games postponed to next summer and no foreseeable competitions. "So I'm being literal when I say they're going to watch me from their windows. It will be fun."

This project has been in the back of their minds for ages. Morris would always venture home and wouldn't be able to stay long because she had to return to practice.

Now, her coach can simply send along a workout.

"This virus kind of pushed us to do something that we've always wanted to do," said Morris, who finished second to Katerina Stefanidi of Greece at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The entire endeavor took about three weeks and cost around \$4,000 (not counting the landing mat, which usually runs around \$30,000 but was loaned to her). There's a rubber surface covering the runway for better traction, too. No concrete was used so it can be moved (although, not easily).

The blueprint was provided by Scott Kendricks, the father of two-time world pole vaulting champion Sam Kendricks. The Kendricks family built a similar setup years ago in Mississippi (they've since switched to a fabricated runway).



Morris and her father, Harry Morris, work on the pit where the landing mat will rest.

It's no easy task. "Almost like building a skate park — you can really mess it up if you don't know what you're doing," Sam Kendricks said. "But I saw her running on it and I was like, 'Wow, that's a fine runway you guys have built.'"

He's eager to try it out — once shelter-at-home restrictions are eased and it's safer to travel again, of course.

"Heck yeah. I'd definitely drive through Atlanta to visit Sandi and try that," Kendricks said.

NFL DRAFT

Identifying and developing intangibles in QBs

Evaluating 'it' might be biggest challenge scouts, coaches face

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

Sam Howell has been a quarterback since first grade.

His father told him then that to play the position he needed to be the leader of the team, and that more would be expected of him than other players, both on the field and off.

Howell, coming off a record-breaking freshman season at North Carolina, has come to think of quarterback as a lifestyle.

"I know everyone's looking at me," Howell said.

Evaluating and projecting quarterbacks at any level is probably the most challenging part of building a football team. More so than any other position, what makes a quarterback successful is almost impossible to measure or quantify. That mysterious and ill-defined "It Factor."

"I don't think there is a science to it," said Ohio State coach Ryan Day, who spent two seasons as a quarterback coach in the NFL under Chip Kelly before landing in Columbus. "If there was, I think it would be a lot easier for everybody. I think in 2020 they wouldn't still be asking what it means."

Joe Burrow, Tua Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert lead the next batch of quarterbacks set to enter the NFL. They are the consensus top three QBs available in this year's draft, all expected to be selected Thursday night.

Their prodigious skills, prolific production and impressive athleticism are obvious. As are their few physical shortcomings. The rest? Well, there is a reason why they are called intangibles.

In the era of personal quarterback coaches, 7-on-7 summer leagues and scholarship "offers" to eighth graders, the holistic development of quarterbacks begins early.

David Morris is the founder of QB Country and best-known for a college career spent as Eli Manning's backup at Mississippi. He works with all ages and talent levels of quarterbacks, from tweens aspiring to start for the JV team to Daniel Jones, who was selected No. 6 overall by the New York Giants last season.

For Morris there are two aspects to the so-called intangibles.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

LSU quarterback Joe Burrow put up eye-popping numbers on the field for the Tigers en route to the College Football Championship last season, but that won't stop speculation about whether he possesses the most elusive and desirable of traits — the "It Factor."

One is mental capacity: The ability to learn and process football. That can show itself on the whiteboard or film room, breaking down plays and defenses. The hope is that transfers to the field, but not always.

Then there are the players whose mastery of the subject matter doesn't really shine through until they get between the lines.

For Morris it's the difference between book smart and street smart. Both can be successful and most good players have at least some of each. There are readily available ways to identify and develop a player's mental capacity, though projecting its growth potential can be trickier.

The second intangible is more about personality and how it relates to leadership. One way or another, a quarterback has to

be a team leader, whether he is gregarious or reticent, laid back or intense. Some quarterbacks will pick a teammate up with an optimistic "atta boy." Others get a point across more sternly.

"I've seen that many different personalities can get it done," Morris said. "And so whether he is vocal or dynamic or alpha or more reserved, is he a leader? How does he lead? And then is he confident in his leadership style?"

Confidence is a word that comes up a lot when it comes to elite athletes of all kinds. With quarterbacks, it is especially important because the position comes with such a harsh and unrelenting spotlight.

"You willingly chose to play the most scrutinized position in all of organized athletics," is a line in the quarterback hand-

book Oregon offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead gives to his signal-callers.

Moorhead said quarterbacks "should teeter on the bridge of confidence and cockiness."

Still, there is no word, test or formula that can reliably identify which quarterbacks have "it."

"There's got to be a little bit of gut feel to it, too," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "Because kids come from different backgrounds. These guys are raised in different parts of the country, in different homes, with different family situations. Different situations at school, different kinds of leadership in their life. And so some of it's evaluating where they're at now and some of it's predicting as best you can where you think they're headed."

NFL promotes launch of wheelchair football league at draft

BY BARRY WILNER

Associated Press

The competitive drive never has left Brad Lang, who hopes to be playing football in the fall.

In the first Wheelchair Football League, which is being launched by Disabled Sports USA.

On Saturday, Lang, a Marine veteran who lost both legs in an explosion while on patrol in Afghanistan in 2011, will announce a draft pick for the Carolina Panthers. He was selected by the NFL to represent the new league that plans to play in Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Kansas City, Mo.

He's excited about that opportunity, even with the draft being conducted digitally.

"It's definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Lang says. "Something I never would have had the dream to have the oppor-

'It's definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.' **Brad Lang**

Marine veteran, on announcing a draft pick for the Carolina Panthers

tunity to do."

Then, Lang will continue preparation for the wheelchair version of America's most popular sport. It's important — make that essential — to participate, he notes.

"I think the best way to describe that is to share my first experience with disabled sports," Lang said. "After I was injured I came back to Bethesda Naval (hospital) and in late November, I was approached by a sports rep who asked would I like to go skiing? I'm thinking that I can't even walk, how am I going to ski? I grew up in Michigan and was an able-bodied skier, too."

Lang, a Purple Heart recipient, particularly likes the idea of competing in a sport based on teamwork. Games will be played on hard surfaces both indoors

"I went out to a ski spectator and tried it for the first time and instantly fell in love with it. It was 10 times more enjoyable than able-bodied skiing ever was. It really was the only thing I have found that was better on the other side of the injury."

"It's similar with football and all the disabled sports I have been able to participate in. It makes you feel like you are on par with everybody else and how you used to be."

Lang, a Purple Heart recipi-

and outside, with seven players a side on a field 60 yards long and 22 yards wide.

"There's the camaraderie that is bred into all military personnel, and the teamwork it takes to complete every mission," says Lang, who played youth and high school football. "It is something I am always looking for."

Disabled Sports USA has programs across 50 sports and soon will be expanding beyond that. Those sports range from athletics to archery, from mountain biking to bocce. Football is being launched with the aid of funding from the NFL and the Bob Woodruff Foundation.

DSUSA also plays a role in developing athletes for the Paralympics.

"We have an official role as a multisport organization," says Glenn Merry, DSUSA's executive director. "In real terms, we are

the community-based athlete development pipeline; 81% of USA (disabled) athletes came through one of our chapter programs. And 71% of Summer Paralympics athletes have come through our summer programs.

"We are not the finishing school, but the open end of the funnel that teaches them the basics of the sport."

Many of the basics of football must be streamlined for the wheelchair game. With no kickoffs or punts, the ball will be thrown in the air rather than kicked. A one-hand touch on the body above the waist is considered a tackle. Each roster will be balanced through a weighting system based on a player's disability. On conversions, a run is worth one point, a pass is worth two.

All participants must remain fully seated during play.

NFL/PRO BASKETBALL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Even without a No. 1 pick Bears expect to stock up

GM excited to have two second-rounders in 'deep draft'

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

Chicago general manager Ryan Pace is all wired and ready to go for the draft. He thinks the Bears are, too.

Chicago comes in with no first-round picks for the second year in a row, having traded them to Oakland for star linebacker Khalil Mack prior to the 2018 season. But with two second-rounders at numbers 43 and 50 and seven selections in all, the Bears hope to add some key pieces as they try to shake off a disappointing season.

"It puts it on us as evaluators and scouts and coaches to maximize the draft picks we have," Pace said Tuesday. "Fortunately we have two twos and it is a deep draft, and we've just got to capitalize at that point."

The Bears went 8-8 and missed the playoffs for the eighth time in nine years, a huge letdown after winning the NFC North at 12-4 in 2018. While a defense that has ranked among the league's best in recent years continued to perform at a high level, the offense

By the numbers

8-8

Bears' record last season after going 12-4 in 2018.

7

Draft selections, including none in the first round and two in the second.

SOURCE: Associated Press

was one of the least productive in the NFL.

Though the Bears have been busy bringing in pass rusher Robert Quinn to take the load off Mack and former All-Pro tight end Jimmy Graham, they still

have some big question marks.

It's not clear how much Graham has left after getting released by Green Bay. But he has a strong connection to Pace, who had a hand in drafting him while working in New Orleans' front office.

The Bears need help on the offensive line and more playmakers to go with receiver Allen Robinson. The wish list also includes a cornerback and safety to go with Kyle Fuller and Eddie Jackson.

And there's a different setup to the draft this year, with headquartermen off limits because of the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of Halas Hall, Pace has been working at home the past month, making the most of the challenges that come with the setup.

One benefit?

Having dinner every night with his wife, Stephanie, and 10-year-old daughter Cardyn, something he couldn't remember doing for a month straight.

Pace credits the Bears' technology staff for a "seamless" transition to working at home. He said they boosted the bandwidth in his



TIM BOYLE, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES/AP

Chicago Bears general manager Ryan Pace is looking to bounce back from an 8-8 season. The Bears have seven draft selections, but none in the first round.

house about a week ago, so he no longer has to worry about a slow Wi-Fi connection when Cardyn uses her iPad. He just hopes no one trips over the cord running from the router down the stairs to the dining room, where he has seven monitors, or knocks out a wire again. Stephanie did that the other day while vacuuming, causing each screen to go blank.

"There will be a lot of fun stories to tell when this is all said and done," Pace said. "It's been a really unique circumstance, but they've been awesome through

the whole process and I'm just very thankful for them."

Pace also said the team has not decided whether to exercise quarterback Mitchell Trubisky's fifth-year option, with the deadline May. The Bears acquired former Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles in a trade with Jacksonville to challenge for the starting job after Trubisky struggled in his third season.

"We'll cross that bridge once we get through this weekend," Pace said.

Americans playing overseas fear economic fallout of virus

BY KEN MAGUIRE
Associated Press

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, Devin Sweetney knew nothing was guaranteed when it came to getting paid for playing overseas.

The 32-year-old American said the Greek basketball team he played for this season still owes him "thousands of dollars." And with sports shut down around the world because of the pandemic, Sweetney is thinking more about his long-term future.

"Now is the time to get your plan together, because you never know," the 6-foot-6 small forward said. "It's an eye-opener for everybody."

American players have been able to earn livings by infusing European basketball teams with scoring and ball handling, but now they're worried there will be fewer jobs and lower salaries in the economic fallout of the coronavirus.

"You're going to see some teams fold or not be able to pay as much," said 25-year-old Mehry Kraker, who played in Spain this season. "Clubs rely on multiple benefactors and sponsors, so with companies being hit, the funding is going to be affected, especially on the women's side."

The United States is by far the world's biggest exporter of basketball players, both male and female, and Europe is the top importer. Nearly as many Americans as Germans, for example, played in the men's Basketball Bundesliga in 2018-19, according to FIBA's 2019 Migration Report.

Jobs had been on the rise. Americans accounted for one-third of total roster spots in the top men's leagues of Germany, Greece, Italy, France and Spain, the FIBA report said. That's up from about one-quarter of roster spots in those leagues in the 2011-12 season.

Further, they typically averaged more points and minutes per game than their teammates, the report added.

"We take on more responsibility," said 27-year-old Aaryn Ellenberg, whose 15 points per game led her French team, Saint Amant. "The role I've played on most teams is to come in and score and lift the level of the team."

The exodus back to the United States followed league stoppages and travel restrictions. It could be a much different landscape when they return. Will Voigt, hired in February to coach Baskets Bonn, said some clubs struggle even in the best of times.

"In all these top leagues, there's always a handful of teams that are right on the brink financially," said Voigt, who also coaches Angola's national team.

That's true in smaller leagues, too, which is bad news for the hundreds of Americans who eke out livings on teams from Iceland to Cyprus.

"Any way you look at it, it's not going to be positive for imports," Voigt said.

Real Madrid, which plays in Spain's domestic league and the regional EuroLeague, reacted by reducing player salaries by up to 20% for this season. Meanwhile, EuroLeague president Jordi



JACK DENPEY/AP

Devin Sweetney said he knew even before the coronavirus outbreak that nothing was guaranteed when it came to getting paid for playing overseas. The 32-year-old American said the Greek basketball team he played for this season still owes him thousands of dollars.

Bertomeu said he is "100% sure" Turkish Airlines will maintain its sponsorship.

Uncertainty is a given for overseas players. They rarely land multiyear contracts, are quickly replaced if injured, and sometimes must go to arbitration for their money. Perks include free housing and the team handles taxes, so pay is net.

Veterans can fetch \$10,000 or more per month, but others might accept less than half that amount. There's no public listing, but Kraker said she has seen huge variations on the women's side, from a player earning \$800 per month in the Czech Republic to WNBA players getting \$15,000 per month in bigger leagues. Shane Larkin reportedly earns \$2 million on a men's team in Turkey.

McGraw retires, led Irish to two national titles

Associated Press

Two years removed from winning her second national championship, Muffet McGraw retired as coach of Notre Dame on Wednesday, a surprising decision to many of the countless players and coaches she has influenced on and off the court as a mentor and advocate for women.

The Hall of Fame coach has a resume that includes two national championships in 33 seasons at the school. McGraw sent 20 players to the WNBA during her coaching career.

Former Fighting Irish player and longtime assistant coach Niele Ivey will return to take over for McGraw. She was on the Memphis Grizzlies staff last year after 17 seasons at Notre Dame.

The 64-year-old McGraw became the 13th woman inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017. She won 936 games, ranking sixth among Division I coaches, with 842 coming at Notre Dame.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished and I can turn the page to the next chapter in my life with no regrets, knowing that I gave it my best every day," said McGraw.



McGraw

BASEBALL

Minor league teams, players face lost season

Virus outbreak threatens to wipe out summer slate

By JAY COHEN

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Mike Nutter is surrounded by questions everywhere he goes these days. So the longtime president of the Fort Wayne TinCaps is planning for each scenario he can imagine, one at a time.

What does minor league baseball look like in the COVID-19 age? What happens if his Class A team plays only half a season?

And the big one: What if there are no games at all?

While Major League Baseball tries to figure out a way to play this summer, the prospects for anything resembling a normal minor league season are increasingly bleak.

For minor league communities across the country from Albuquerque to Akron, looking forward to cheap hot dogs, fuzzy mascot hugs and Elvira theme nights, it's a small slice of a depressing picture.

Attendance at minor league games last year was more than 41.5 million, a 2.6% increase over 2018 and the 15th straight year with more than 40 million fans.

Among the most popular teams in the minors is the Durham Bulls. But no club is immune from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The Bulls recently placed more than half of their front-office staff on furlough.

"I'm still holding out hope, but we're also being realistic that the challenges we face over the next few months are pretty severe just because we are so spread out around the country," Bulls vice president Mike Birling said.

"And we kind of need a perfect storm in terms all of the cities of where Triple-A teams are located would need to be OK,



MIKE MOORE, THE JOURNAL-GAZETTE/AP

Downtown Fort Wayne, Ind., is seen from an empty Parkview Field earlier this month. Mike Nutter, longtime president of the Fort Wayne TinCaps, is planning for every scenario he can imagine as the prospects for anything resembling a normal minor league season this summer look increasingly bleak.

which that seems pretty unrealistic right now."

Nutter tackles each day with a focus on what's most important to his San Diego Padres affiliate in the Midwest League, knowing full well how many people are dealing with more dire issues in Indiana and beyond. Yet it's tough sometimes for a minor league lifer used to the grind of a pocket schedule.

"There's been times, early on, I was really struggling with it," Nutter said, "and shared that with some co-workers. I would say stress and anxiety for sure, started to probably broach on the depression. I don't use any of that lightly, but the point is, like, so much, overwhelming is the right thing."

The uncertainty also weighs on players. The loss of a minor league season would be a tough blow for prospects, especially those just starting out in professional baseball. While major league organizations have more training possibilities than ever before, there is no substitute for live games.

MLB and its players' union are aiming to hold as many games as possible, offering a glimmer of possibility to some prospects who could be in the mix to help with a packed schedule.

"Hopefully they'll expand rosters or something like that for somebody like myself or whoever," said Zach Short, an infielder in the Cubs' organization who reached Triple-A Iowa last summer. "And

'I'm still holding out hope, but we're also being realistic that the challenges we face are pretty severe.'

Mike Birling

Durham Bulls vice president

then just go with it."

Short, from Kingston, N.Y., stayed in Arizona after training camp was cut short, sharing a house with fellow pros Ian Happ, Nico Hoerner and Dakota Mekkes from the Cubs. They work out and play tennis together to help stay ready.

Andre Neebe, a minor leaguer in the Brewers' organization who expected to be in Class A ball this year, built a batting cage at his house in Oakland and ordered basic gym equipment. He said he might tie resistance bands to a tree to get in a strength workout.

"It's kind of fun being creative with it and finding ways to get work," he said. "It's probably the best way for me to pass time. There's not much else to do right now."

Looming in the background of the minors' tenuous situation is intermittent talks with MLB on a new development contract. The current Professional Baseball Agreement expires in September.

The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the minor league governing body, is prepared to agree to MLB's proposal to cut the minimum of affiliations from 160 to 120 next year, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because no announcements were authorized.

"There have been no agreements on contraction or any other issues," the National Association said in a statement, adding it "looks forward to continuing the good-faith negotiations with MLB tomorrow."

Scams: Manfred's report says Boston misdeeds 'not as pervasive' as Astros'

FROM BACK PAGE

2017 was unacceptable and I respect and accept the Commissioner's discipline for my past actions."

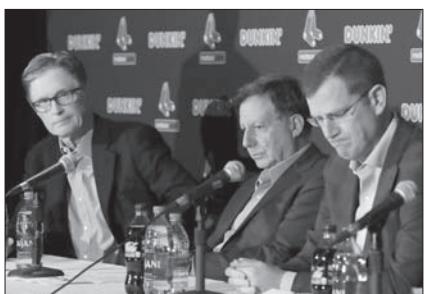
The Red Sox upgraded the status of Ron Roenicke, who had been their interim manager pending the outcome of the investigation.

"That interim tag is removed," Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom said. "Ron is now our manager."

The only member of the Red Sox organization who was penalized was replay system operator J.T. Watkins, who was suspended without pay for a year for violating the prohibition on in-game use of video to identify pitch signals. Watkins, who denied the allegations, was also prohibited from serving as the replay room operator through 2021.

Boston was also stripped of its second-round pick in this year's amateur draft. No 52 overall.

"To be clear, we're not taking any victory laps. A violation was uncovered and that was wrong and we're being punished for it," Red Sox president Sam Kennedy said on a conference call with reporters, while acknowledging relief that the monthlong investigation is over.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

From left, Boston Red Sox owner John Henry, chairman Tom Werner and CEO Sam Kennedy react during a news conference in January at Fenway Park in Boston.

"We have to earn back trust, and we're prepared to do that," Kennedy said, adding that the team's owners apologized to their counterparts on a conference call that afternoon. "We recognize that as an organization."

Both Bloom and Kennedy dismissed suggestions that Cora could be welcomed back — es-

specially if the coronavirus pandemic wipes out the entire 2020 season. Roenicke, who was hired on the eve of spring training after a shotgun job search, is signed only for one year.

"Since we parted ways with Alex, we were clear that that was the result of his role with the Astros. That's still the case," Bloom wrote.

said. "All the reasons that we parted ways with him then are still the case."

Manfred said in his report that Boston's misdeeds were limited to the regular season and not as pervasive as the Astros', who repeatedly used a video camera in the outfield to steal catchers' signs during their run to the 2017 championship and again the following season.

Manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended through the 2020 post-season and fired by the Astros on Jan. 13. Houston was fined \$5 million, the maximum under the Major League Constitution, and lost the next two first- and second-round amateur draft selections.

"Unlike the Houston Astros' 2017 conduct, in which players communicated to the batter from the dugout area in real time the precise type of pitch about to be thrown, Watkins' conduct, by its very nature, was far more limited in scope and impact," Manfred wrote.

A 30-year-old from Tuscaloosa, Ala., Watkins is a 2012 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. The catcher was selected by Boston in the 10th round of that year's amateur draft and played

in the Red Sox system until 2015. He declined comment, the Red Sox said.

Watkins compiled advance scouting information, and part of his job was to decode opposing pitchers' sequences ahead of series. Manfred called him a "key participant" in the 2017 Apple Watch incident, saying he relayed decoded signs from Boston's replay room to the dugout, at first with a runner and then with the watch to an athletic trainer.

MLB said it interviewed 65 people, including 34 past and present Boston players. Manfred concluded Cora did not know of Watkins' conduct but "did not effectively communicate to Red Sox players the sign-stealing rules."

In his statement, Cora said: "I am grateful for the Commissioner's thoughtful and thorough investigation relating to my conduct as Red Sox manager."

Red Sox players were promised immunity in MLB's investigation, but Manfred said even if players had been subject to discipline, none would have been punished.

Watkins denied any wrongdoing, telling MLB that any information he provided during games was obtained from advance scouting.

SPORTS MOVIES

Emotional connections

Head coach Norman Dale
(Gene Hackman) addresses
his team in "Hoosiers."

MGM/TNS



Why sports movies resonate with us

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

For now and the foreseeable future, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, there are no live sports to watch — in person, on television, online.

Replays of past events are available, sure, but there's rarely much joy in that. After all, one of the primary appeals of sports-in-the-moment is that no one — participant or spectator — knows what's going to unfold, who's going to win or lose, how and why it'll happen or even exactly when.

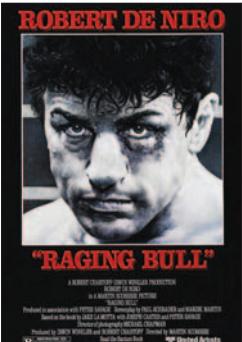
"I'm tired," President Donald Trump lamented last week, "of watching baseball games that are 14 years old."

Somehow, though, movies no matter how old, are ripe for watching and re-watching. We're OK with seeing Jimmy Chitwood make that shot ... or Rocky Balboa fight Apollo Creed ... or Roy Hobbs smack a homer into the lights ... or Tom Hanks' character explain there's no crying in baseball ... over and over and again. Familiarity with the who, what, where doesn't necessarily spoil the show.

With all of that in mind, The Associated Press is presenting a one-of-its-kind Top 25 of sports movies, a suggestion of what to put on the screen while stuck at home. This is, of course, what we do at the AP: We rank things. So 70 writers and editors around the world voted on the best in the history of sports cinema.

The AP Top 25 — actually, 26 films made the cut, because there was a three-way tie at No. 24 — was released on April 17, with "Hoosiers" at No. 1, narrowly ahead of "Rocky" and "Bull Durham," which shared the No. 2 spot. "Caddyshack" and "Slap Shot" were next, followed by "Field of Dreams," "Raging Bull," "Major League," "The Natural" and "A League of Their Own."

These, and the rest of the rankings,



represent movies that we love — and that explain our love of sports.

"Someone once described the challenge of writing a sports film like driving down a road full of potholes of clichés: You're bound to hit some. You just have to build a vehicle that has a bulletproof shock absorber, so they're not noticed," Angelo Pizzo, who wrote "Hoosiers" and another Top 25 selection, "Rudy," said in a telephone interview.

"When sports films work, they work because the audience connects emotionally to the protagonist," Pizzo said. "When people talk to me about 'Rudy,' if that movie works for them, it's because they see themselves in Rudy. They see themselves as someone who is not appreciated, is not seen, is not valued. And by sheer force of will and belief and faith, they manage to break through. It's not just about achieving the dream — it's about going on the journey to achieve the dream."

Sports help us build communities, create a shared history. They speak to how we yearn to win and how we empathize with those who lose. They are capable of filling us with hope and despair, triumph and disaster — often all four within a span of mere minutes.

Movies, meanwhile, can do the very same.

They might be profoundly educational or purely entertaining — and, in the best of cases, both.

Whether it's in their most life-capturing form, the documentary, such as "Hoop Dreams" or "When We Were Kings" — both on the AP list, at No. 14 and tied for No. 21. Or when based on, however strictly or loosely, real events, such as "Remember the Titans" or "The Pride of the Yankees" — also in the Top 25, tied for No. 18 and tied for No. 21. Or even when created out of whole cloth, such as "Caddyshack," which was No. 4, and "The Natural," which tied for No. 8.

Filmmaking, no matter the approach, comes with a license to shade and shape, to imagine, to create, to figure out ways to take the audience wherever it needs to go.

Movies and sports share certain constructs, themes or patterns that emerge over and over.

The heroine/hero. The underdog. Good vs. evil. The protagonist's path. The antagonist's resistance.

Maybe that's why the overlap of the realms resonates.

Maybe that's why we watch. "The world that sports creates has a couple of appealing things going for it. Unlike life, there are definable rules. There's a way of scoring. There's a way of declaring winners and losers. And it's an escape from the rigors of our own day-to-day lives," Pizzo said. "While sports are gone now, people who are sports fans — or even partial sports fans — are noticing how much of a role sports play in their lives."

'Hoosiers' is No. 1

"Hoosiers" shot all the way to No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 of best sports movies, a one-of-a-kind poll from the news organization known for its rankings of college teams.

Released in 1986 and starring Gene Hackman, "Hoosiers" led the tally in results released Friday, receiving 46 votes from a 70-person global panel of sports writers and editors who work for the AP.

"If you put your effort and concentration into playing to your potential, to be the best that you can be, I don't care what the scoreboard says at the end of the game," coach Norman Dale, Hackman's character, says in the top-ranked movie. "In my book, we're gonna be winners."

And in this case, they were.

Loosely based on an Indiana high school basketball team in the 1950s, "Hoosiers" narrowly edged Academy Award Best Picture honoree "Rocky" — released in 1976, it was the first installment of Sylvester Stallone's series about an unknown boxer from Philadelphia who gets a shot at the big time — and "Bull Durham" — starring Kevin Costner and Susan Sarandon in 1988, it offered a fictionalized look at characters that populate minor league baseball.

Those two movies tied for second place with 45 votes each.

There was a significant gap between the top three and the rest of the AP Top 25.

At No. 4 with 33 votes was "Caddyshack," the odd golf tale to make the rankings. That was followed closely by "Slap Shot" with 32 votes, and "Field of Dreams" with 31.

"Raging Bull," "Major League," "The Natural" and "A League of Their Own" rounded out the poll's top 10.

Other tidbits from this special AP Top 25:

Double takes

Two screenwriters, Angelo Pizzo and Ron Shelton, each earned two mentions on the list. Pizzo penned top-ranked "Hoosiers" and "Rudy," which tied for No. 18. Shelton wrote and directed both "Bull Durham" and No. 17 "White Men Can't Jump."

Real as can be

Two documentaries made the rankings: "Hoop Dreams" at No. 14 and "When We Were Kings," tied for No. 21.

Statistics

In all, 117 films got at least one mention in the complete balloting; 69 received at least two votes apiece. Nine sports served as the subjects of the AP Top 25, a group that actually wound up including 26 total movies, because three tied for 24th place.

Most popular sports

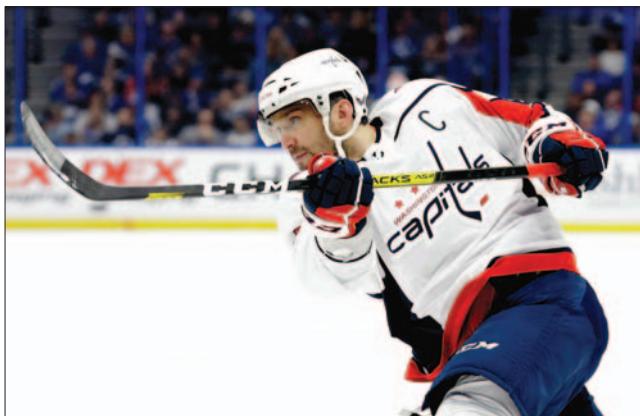
The sport represented the most in the list was baseball with 10 entries, followed by football with four. Basketball and boxing each put three selections in the rankings, while hockey earned two. Golf, running, horse racing and cycling each got one mention.

Oscar and Emmy nods

Six of the movies in the poll won at least one Academy Award, led by the five earned by "Chariots of Fire," which was ranked No. 16. Nine other films were nominated for at least one Oscar. "Brian's Song," which tied for No. 24, was the only television movie to make the list and collected five Emmy Awards.

— Howard Fendrich, Associated Press

NHL



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Losing the rest of the season to the coronavirus pandemic could leave the Capitals' Alex Ovechkin two short of another 50-goal season and threaten his ability to break Wayne Gretzky's all-time record.

'The Great One' hoping Ovechkin can catch him

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Wayne Gretzky sees a lot of himself in Alex Ovechkin, from the smile on his face each time he steps on the ice to his passion for scoring goals.

There are also differences, like Gretzky's sole focus on the NHL growing up in Brantford, Ontario, versus Ovechkin's upbringing in Moscow. "The Great One" believes the Washington Capitals captain has a good chance of breaking his all-time record of 894 goals that once seemed untouchable, depending on how long Ovechkin plays in the NHL. Gretzky speculated that Ovechkin could go home to Russia and finish his career in the Kontinental Hockey League.

"Maybe one day in his mind he'll say, 'Look, I want to go home and play in the KHL when I can still compete at a high level,'" Gretzky told The Associated Press in a phone interview Sunday. "We don't know that. That's his decision. But I think he loves being in Washington. I think he loves the NHL and I think he'll do everything he can at any point to chase down the record."

Ovechkin's longevity and his pursuit of Gretzky's record are among the topics they discussed in their first joint interview, which airs Monday on NBC Sports Network. It comes with them 3,000 miles away and hockey on hiatus because of the coronavirus pandemic but shines a spotlight on the potential of Ovechkin, who has 706 goals, spending the next few years chasing Gretzky.

Ovechkin has 48 goals this



CHRISTOPHER KATSarov
THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Wayne Gretzky is the career leader with 894 goals.

season, tied for the league lead with Boston's David Pastrnak, and if the regular season were to resume, he could match Gretzky and Mike Bossy with nine 50-goal seasons. If not, the time away and focus on the chase could drive Ovechkin to play long enough to break the record.

When asked how long he'd play, Ovechkin has repeatedly referred to the one year remaining on his contract and said, "We'll see." He answers the same to NBC's Kathryn Tappen during the hour-long special with Gretzky and adds: "I'm healthy, thanks God, and I still love this game. As soon as I'm not gonna love this game, I'm not gonna cheat on it because I respect it a lot."

Ovechkin knows that feeling and

was even offered a job to play in Russia in 1999 after playing his final NHL game. He respectfully declined.

"All I remember was my mindset was there's one league and if I'm not good enough for this league, I'm done," Gretzky said. "I grew up, I'm an NHL guy and if I can't play in the NHL, that's it for me. He's probably in a different scenario. He grew up in Russia and he's proud of his country and maybe it'll be great for him to go home."

At 35, Ovechkin has already blown past the age where goal-scorers usually slow down and put up numbers not seen in decades. Even at his pace, Ovechkin would likely need to play at least four more seasons to threaten the record, which Gretzky believes would be great for the game.

Gretzky recalls his dad telling him his record will be broken one day and hoping he handles it with the same class and dignity Gordie Howe did when Gretzky surpassed him as the leading goal-scorer.

"I can't help but cheer and root for him each and every day," Gretzky said. "I hope I'm the first guy who's able to shake his hand when he does break my record."

That's a hope for a few years down the line. With a pandemic raging, Ovechkin — whose wife is expecting the couple's second child — said on a recent video call his focus is on the present, not the future.

"My mind right now is not about 50 goals or catch 'The Great One' or somebody else," Ovechkin said. "My mind right now (is) to do the best what I can do, and what my family can do to be safe."

Bettman: League reviewing options for restarting play

By HELENE ELLIOTT
Los Angeles Times

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	70	44	34	12	94	245	176
Tampa Bay	70	36	35	9	81	238	227
Toronto	70	36	35	9	81	245	195
Montreal	69	31	36	9	75	226	221
Buffalo	69	30	31	8	68	215	217
NY Islanders	71	17	54	10	39	153	153
Detroit	71	17	49	6	39	145	267

	Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	69	41	21	8	90	240	215
Philadelphia	69	41	21	7	89	232	196
Pittsburgh	69	38	31	10	76	216	206
Nashville	68	38	30	10	76	222	193
Columbus	70	33	22	15	81	180	187
New Jersey	69	32	28	6	80	193	193
N.Y. Rangers	69	37	28	5	81	224	222
New Jersey	69	28	28	5	76	188	201

Western Conference

	Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	71	42	19	10	94	225	193
Colorado	70	37	34	9	82	216	196
Dallas	69	37	24	8	82	180	177
Minneapolis	70	37	24	9	82	216	207
Nashville	69	28	39	6	76	195	217
Minnesota	69	35	27	7	77	220	220
Chicago	70	34	28	8	72	212	218

	Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	71	39	24	8	86	227	211
Calgary	71	36	25	9	82	216	203
Edmonton	70	36	27	7	82	210	215
Vancouver	69	36	27	6	82	228	217
San Jose	70	35	28	5	81	216	205
Anaheim	71	29	33	9	67	187	226
Los Angeles	70	29	32	6	64	178	212
Seattle	70	20	50	10	40	152	191

All games postponed at least mid-May.

floated the past few weeks. "We can't play in a small college rink in the middle of a smaller community because if we're going to be centralized, we need the back-of-the-house (amenities) that NHL arenas provide, whether it's multiple locker rooms, whether it's the technology, the procedures, the boards and glass, the video replay, the broadcasting facilities," Bettman said.

Those scenarios include possibly playing without fans in the building or using precautions to mitigate the spread of the virus. "I think there will be some social distancing for a while. I think there will be masks. There will be Purell," Bettman said. "There will be lots of things but that's something that ultimately the medical people and the government leaders will be the best able to tell us."

He also said the league, which paused play on March 12 after playing about 85% of its schedule, has no revenue coming in now. "And that poses an issue not just in terms of how our system works with players but the tens of thousands of people that work for clubs in all sports and how they're impacted by the fact that sports have no revenue coming in," he said.



STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said Wednesday the league is leaning against playing games in nonleague arenas.

SPORTS



Stepping down

Hall of Fame Irish coach McGraw announces retirement » **Page 48**

MLB



Red Sox lose draft pick, Cora suspended in sign-stealing scams

By RONALD BLUM AND JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

NEW YORK

The Boston Red Sox escaped severe penalties in Major League Baseball's cheating investigation on Wednesday, with Commissioner Rob Manfred concluding that the 2018 World Series champions' sign-stealing efforts were less egregious

than the Astros' when they won it all the previous season.

Ex-manager Alex Cora was formally suspended for the coronavirus-delayed 2020 season — but only for his role as Houston's bench coach; Manfred had held off a penalty for Cora despite fingering him as the ringleader of the Astros' sign-stealing operation.

In a statement, Cora said he was "relieved"

the investigations were finished and that Manfred found he "did not violate any MLB rules as a member of the Red Sox organization in 2018 or 2019."

"I also take full responsibility for the role I played, along with others, in the Astros' violations of MLB rules in 2017," Cora said. "The collective conduct of the Astros organization in

SEE SCAMS ON PAGE 49

The Boston Red Sox were stripped of their second-round pick in this year's draft for breaking video rules in 2018 and former manager Alex Cora, pictured, was suspended through the 2020 postseason for his conduct as bench coach with the Houston Astros the previous year. Boston replay system operator J.T. Watkins — a 10th-round draft pick by the Red Sox in 2012 after a four-year career at Army — was also suspended without pay for a year.

GREGORY BULL / AP

TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.



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